

CORBeyRAN

DEFALI

# ASSASSIN'S —CREED—

2 | AQUILUS



TITAN BOOKS











# ASSASSIN'S CREED™

2 | AQUILUS

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COLOR : ALEXIS SENTENAC





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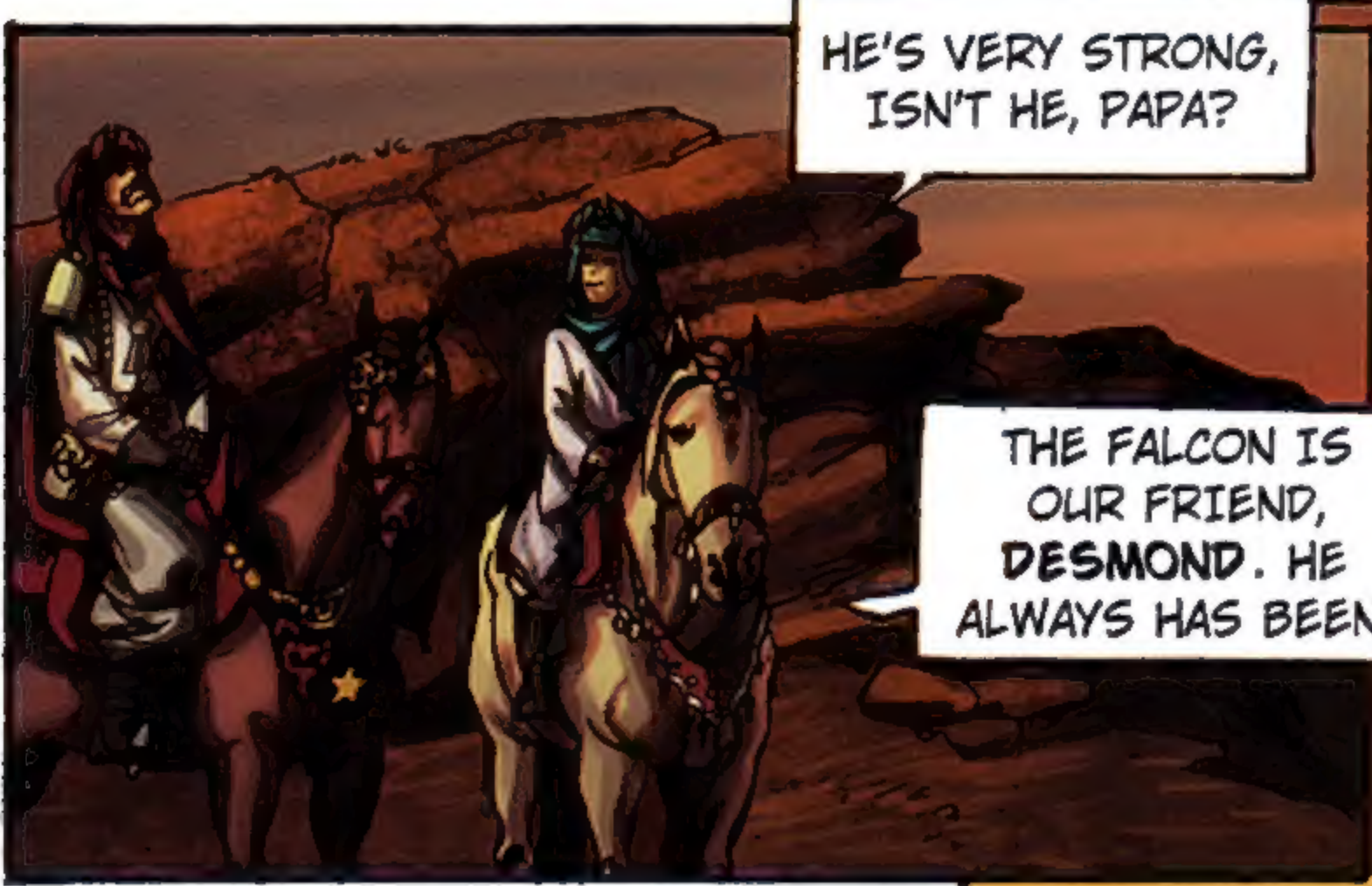
L E S   D E U X   R O Y A U M E S



PROLOGUE.







HE'S VERY STRONG,  
ISN'T HE, PAPA?

THE FALCON IS  
OUR FRIEND,  
DESMOND. HE  
ALWAYS HAS BEEN.



"IF YOU RESPECT  
HIM, HE WILL ALWAYS  
BE LOYAL TO YOU."



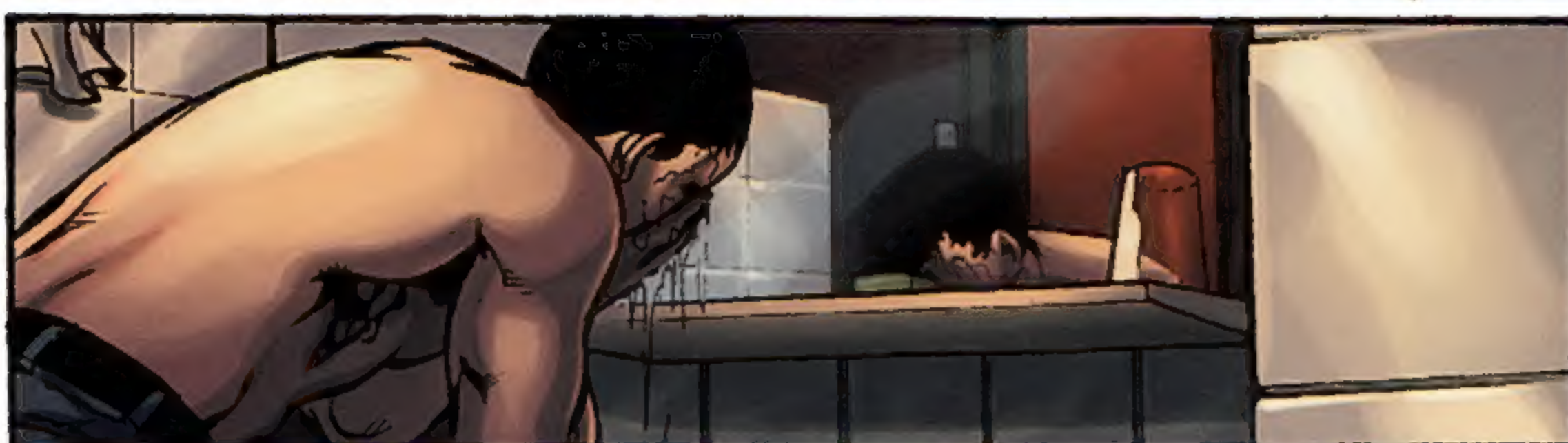
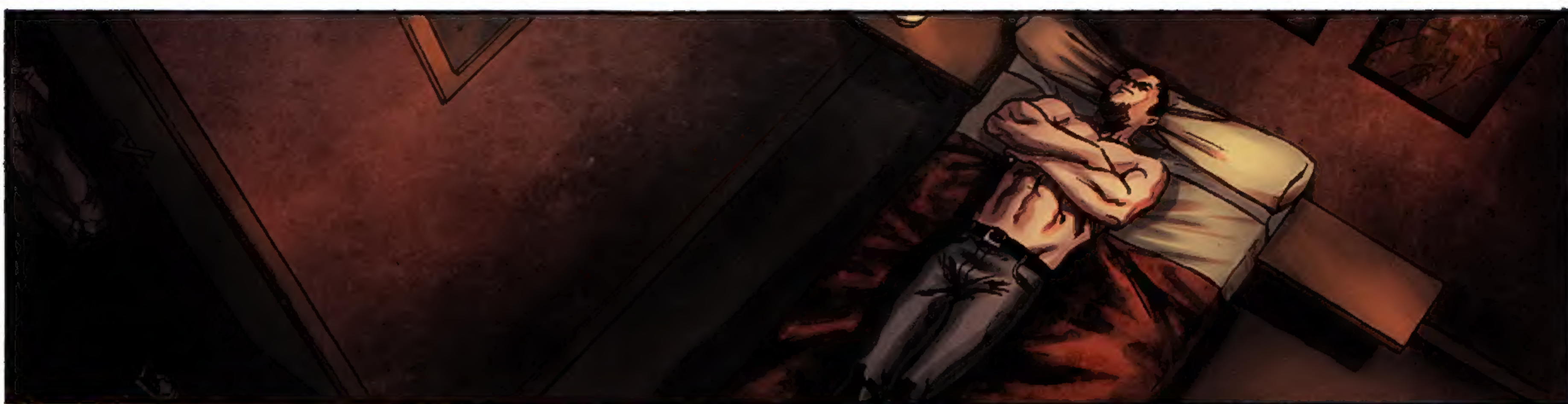
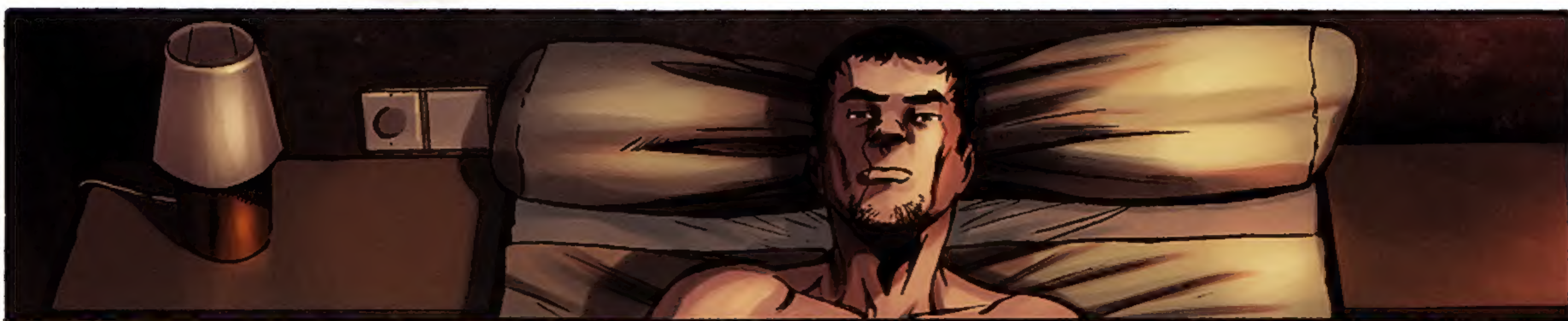
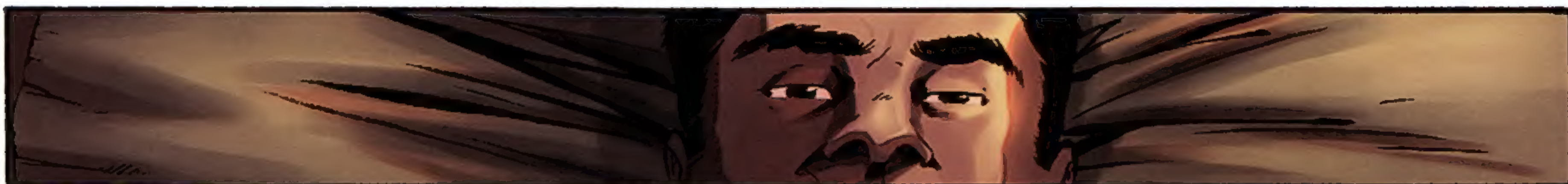
REMEMBER...

EAGLES  
DO NOT FEAR  
VULTURES...



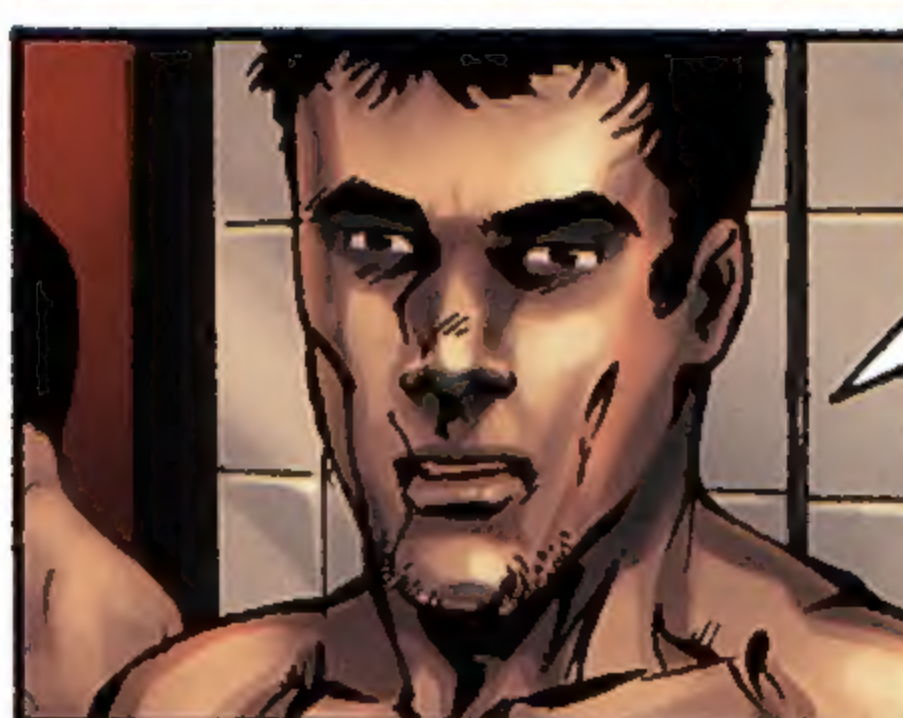
BUT THEY SHOULD  
LEARN TO BE  
WARY OF THEM.



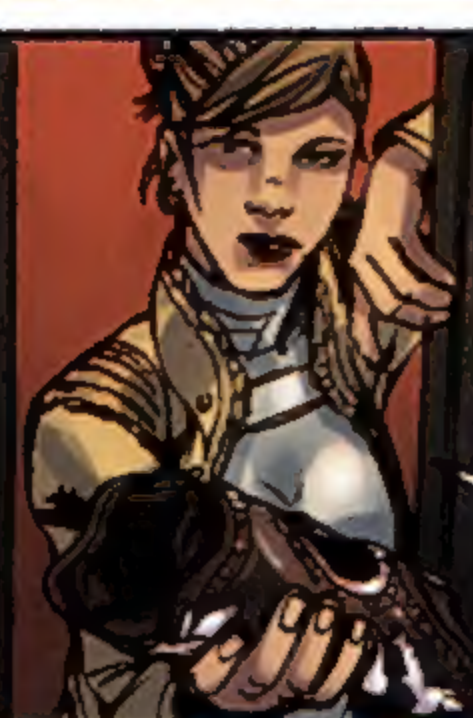


HONESTLY? TERRIBLE. I FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST RUN TWO STRAIGHT MARATHONS AND BEEN KNOCKED OUT FOR A WEEK--!

THAT'S JUST THE EFFECTS OF PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO THE ANIMUS. BUT LET ME REASSURE YOU, YOU'VE ONLY BEEN OUT OF IT FOR ABOUT FIFTEEN HOURS.



IF YOU REALLY WANT TO REASSURE ME, I'D RATHER YOU TOLD ME **WHERE** WE ARE AND **WHAT** WE'RE DOING HERE. I'M STARTING TO GET FED UP WITH BEING LUGGED AROUND LIKE A SACK OF DIRTY LAUNDRY.



I PROMISE YOU, DESMOND, I WILL TELL YOU **EVERYTHING** YOU WANT TO KNOW. BUT FIRST, HOW ABOUT I MAKE YOU FEEL A LITTLE BETTER BY GRABBING US SOME BREAKFAST?





"I CAN ONLY REMEMBER BITS..."



"I REMEMBER ESCAPING ABSTERGO WITH YOU."



"THEN WE CAME TO THIS HANGAR."



"I WENT BACK INTO THE ANIMUS--"



"AND THEN I WOKE UP HERE, IN THIS BEDROOM."



THERE HAVE BEEN SOME OTHER DEVELOPMENTS SINCE YOU RE-ENTERED THE ANIMUS. CLAY ESCAPED SOON AFTER REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS AND TOM HAS BEEN SENT ON ANOTHER MISSION--

I ALSO REMEMBER SOME OTHER CONFUSING BITS AND PIECES. I WAS IN VENICE AND FLORENCE... IT WAS EVENTFUL AND BLOODY, TO SAY THE LEAST.



WE'VE GOT ALL THE DATA FROM THAT ADVENTURE, DESMOND. YOUR ANCESTOR, EZIO, HAS BEEN VERY USEFUL TO US.



THERE ARE IMAGES FROM MY PAST CONTINUOUSLY FLASHING ACROSS MY MIND. WHY CAN'T I FOCUS ON THEM?

AS EZIO OR ANY OF YOUR OTHER ANCESTRAL SUBJECTS, YOU ARE UNABLE TO RETAIN ALL THE INFORMATION IN YOUR MEMORY--WHICH IS PRETTY LUCKY, BECAUSE THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH OF IT! ON THE PLUS SIDE, YOUR TIME SPENT IN THE ANIMUS AS YOUR ANCESTORS IS BEGINNING TO PENETRATE YOUR MIND ON A SUBCONSCIOUS LEVEL IN THE PRESENT DAY.





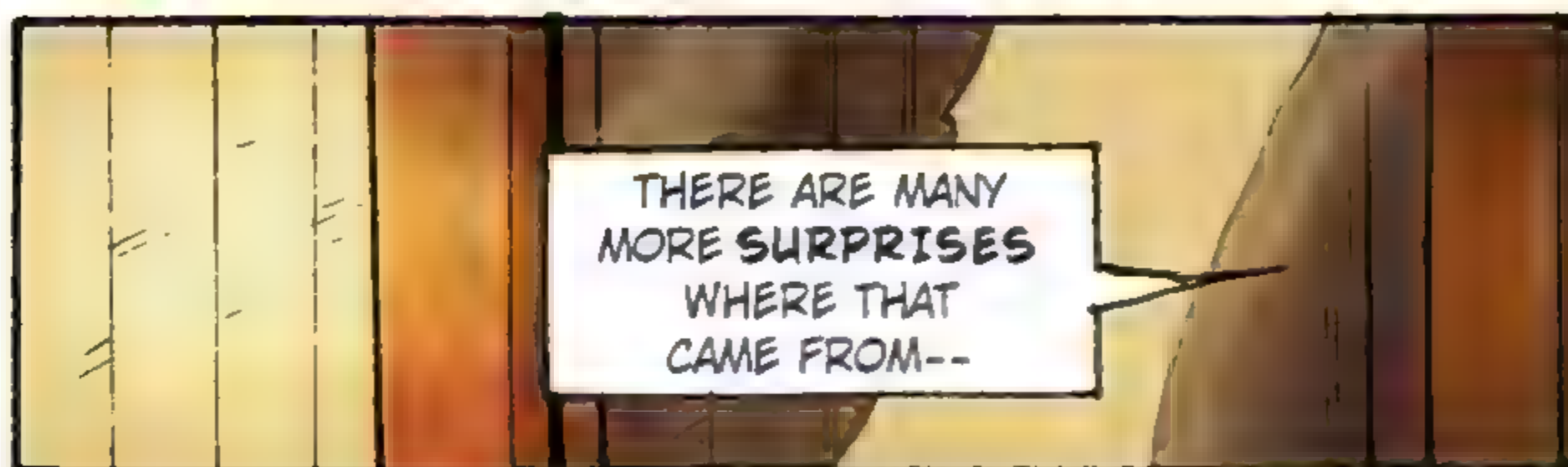


WAIT, WHAT? ARE YOU SAYING I'LL END UP WITH ABILITIES I DIDN'T HAVE BEFORE--?

EXACTLY! AND IN THEORY, THANKS TO YOUR **GENETIC MEMORY**, YOU WILL ALSO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS AND EVENTS WHICH YOU'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF!



THAT... THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE.



THERE ARE MANY MORE **SURPRISES** WHERE THAT CAME FROM--



OH--DESMOND, THIS IS **REBECCA**. SHE WORKS WITH ME.

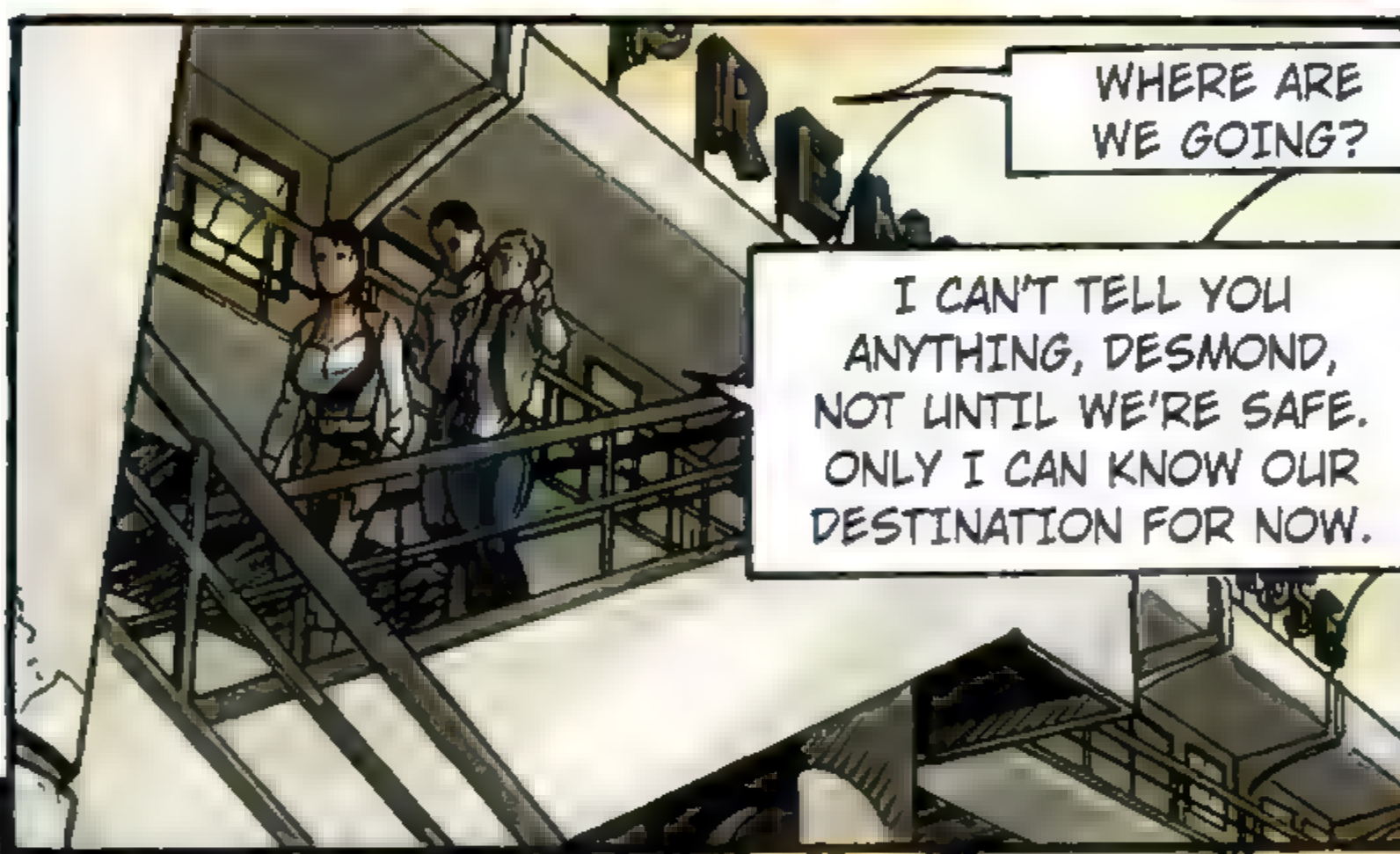
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE, **LUCY**. THE QUICKER WE LEAVE, THE LESS RISK THERE IS OF US BEING SPOTTED.



C'MON, LET'S GO!

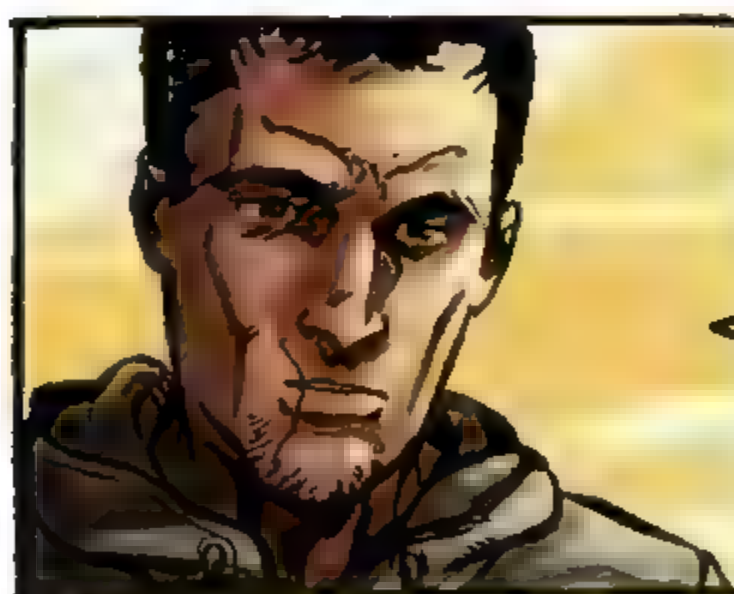


THE OTHERS ARE ALREADY WAITING FOR US IN THE PARKING LOT.



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING, DESMOND, NOT UNTIL WE'RE SAFE. ONLY I CAN KNOW OUR DESTINATION FOR NOW.



I WORK FOR AN ORGANIZATION I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT. I FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS WITHOUT QUESTION AND KILL WITHOUT BATTLING AN EYELID, AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE DECENCY TO **TRUST ME** IN RETURN--?



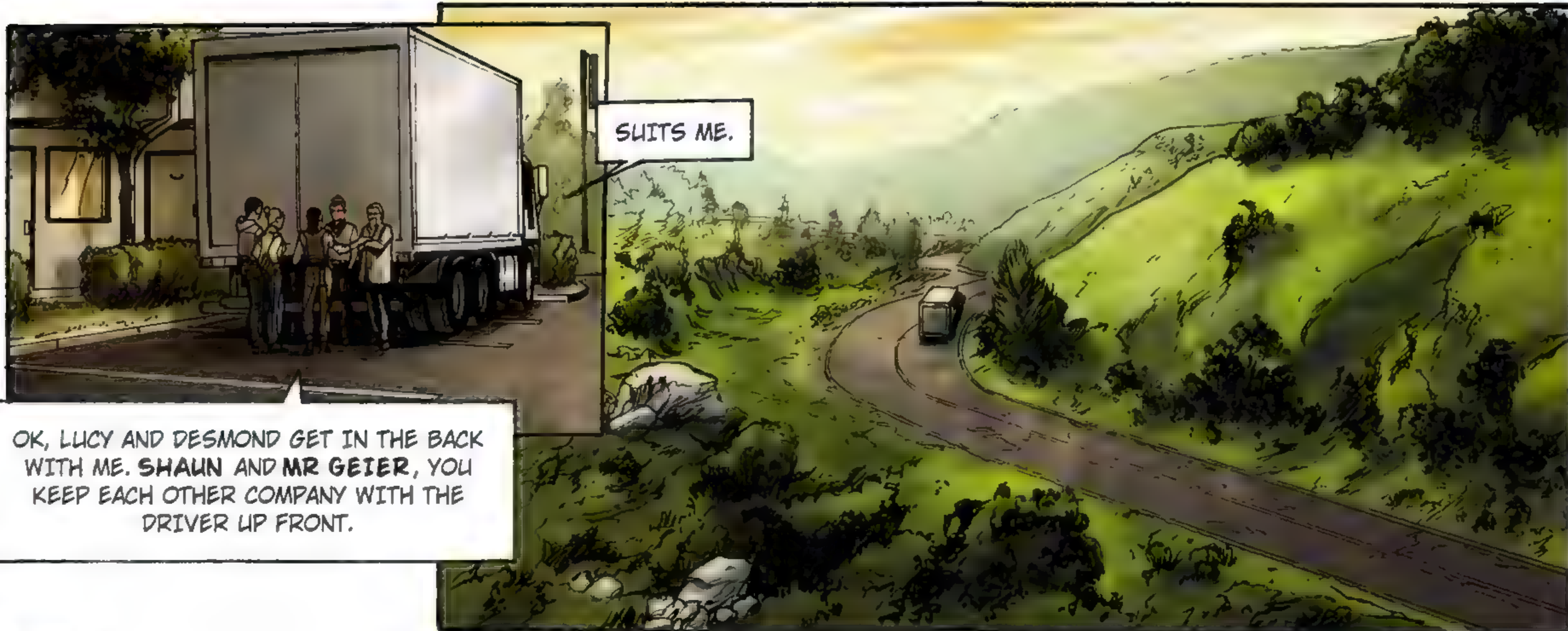
I'M SORRY, DESMOND--



LUCY'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. EVENTS ARE FORCING US TO TAKE **EXTREME CAUTION**.

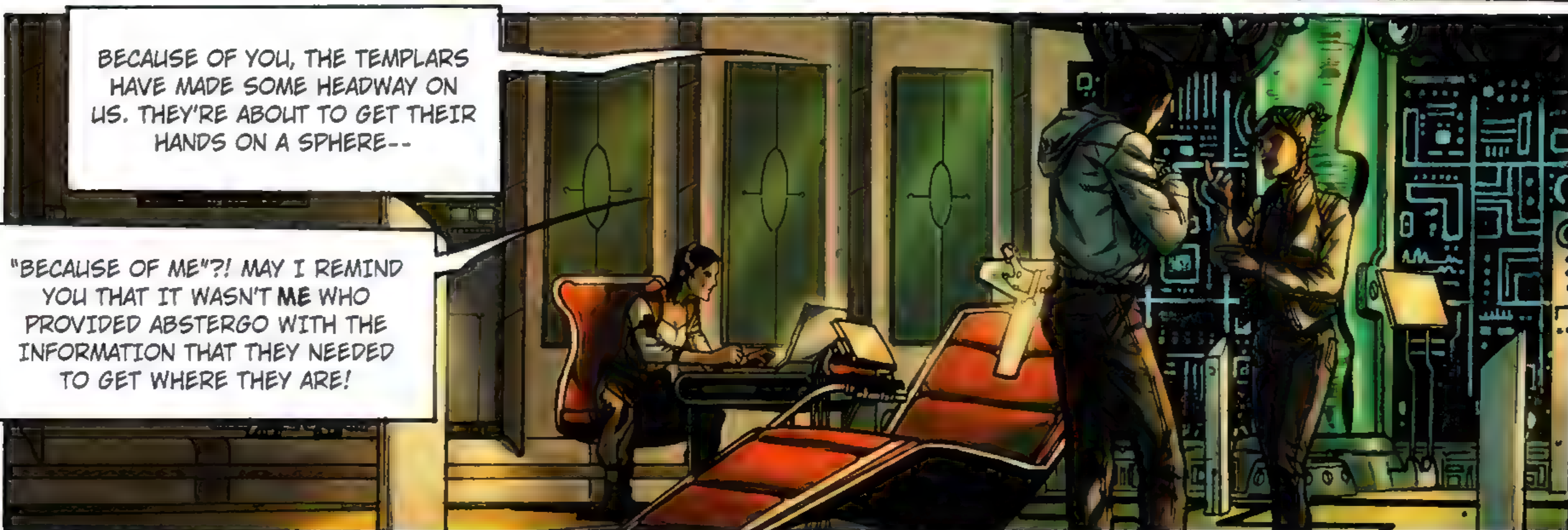
THE **TEMPLARS** ARE FORMIDABLE. THEY WON'T GO DOWN WITHOUT A **FIGHT**!





SUITS ME.

OK, LUCY AND DESMOND GET IN THE BACK WITH ME. **SHAUN** AND **MR GEIER**, YOU KEEP EACH OTHER COMPANY WITH THE DRIVER UP FRONT.



BECAUSE OF YOU, THE **TEMPLARS** HAVE MADE SOME HEADWAY ON US. THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET THEIR HANDS ON A **SPHERE**--

"BECAUSE OF ME"?! MAY I REMIND YOU THAT IT WASN'T **ME** WHO PROVIDED **ABSTERGO** WITH THE INFORMATION THAT THEY NEEDED TO GET WHERE THEY ARE!



ALL RIGHT, BECAUSE OF YOUR **ANCESTOR**, **ALTAIR**--

ANYWAY, WE HAVEN'T LOST YET.

YOUR **ANCESTOR**, **EZIO**, HAS PROVIDED US WITH SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION. WE THOUGHT IT BEST TO LEAVE THE **HANGAR** AS A PRECAUTION.



THE **ASSASSINS** ARE **FEWER** AND **LESS POWERFUL** THAN THEY USED TO BE, **DESMOND**. WE'VE LOST SOME GROUND ON OUR ENEMY AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT. THIS IS WHY WE NEED YOU TO COOPERATE WITH US AGAIN. WE NEED YOU BACK IN THE **ANIMUS** AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

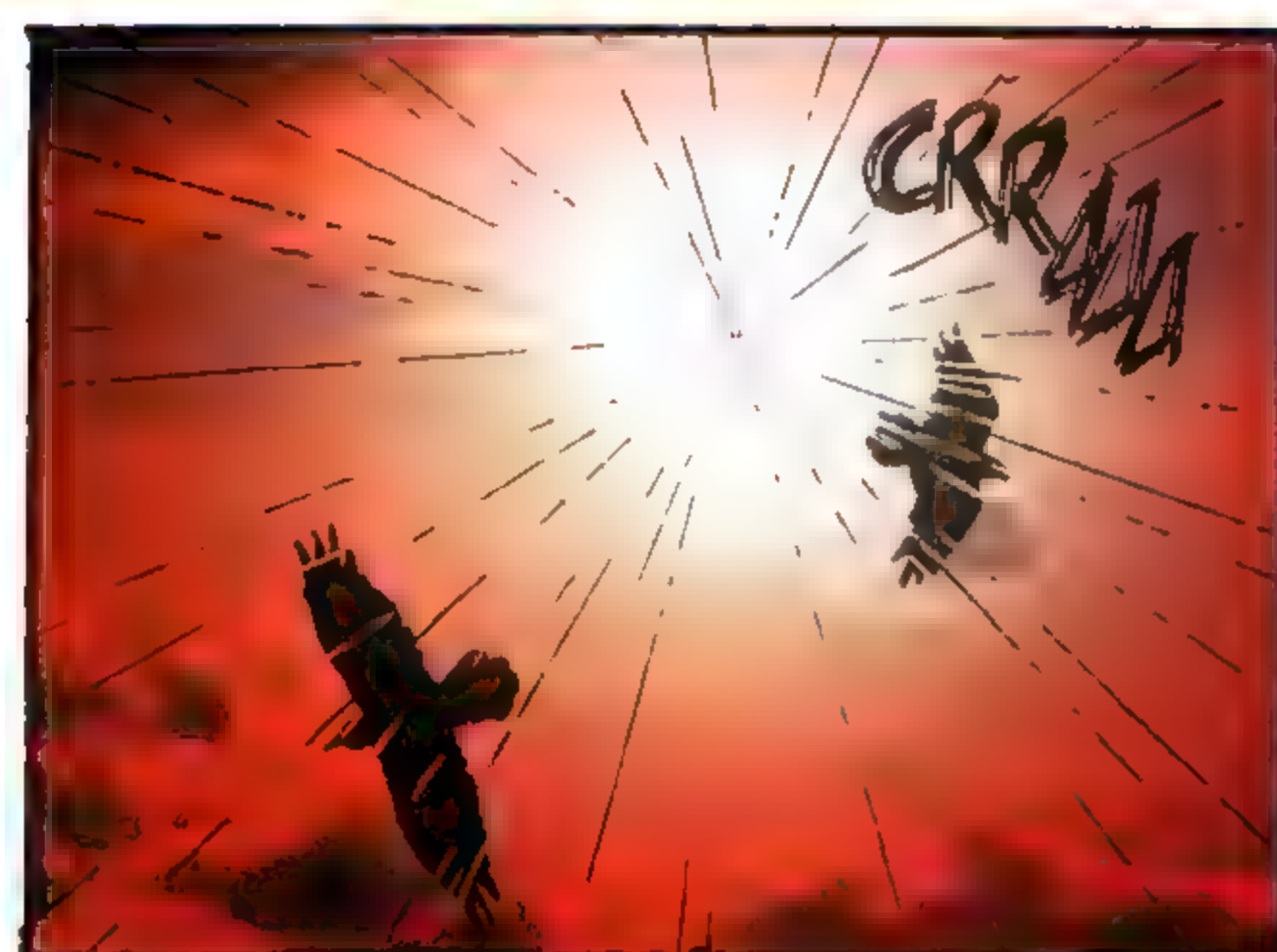
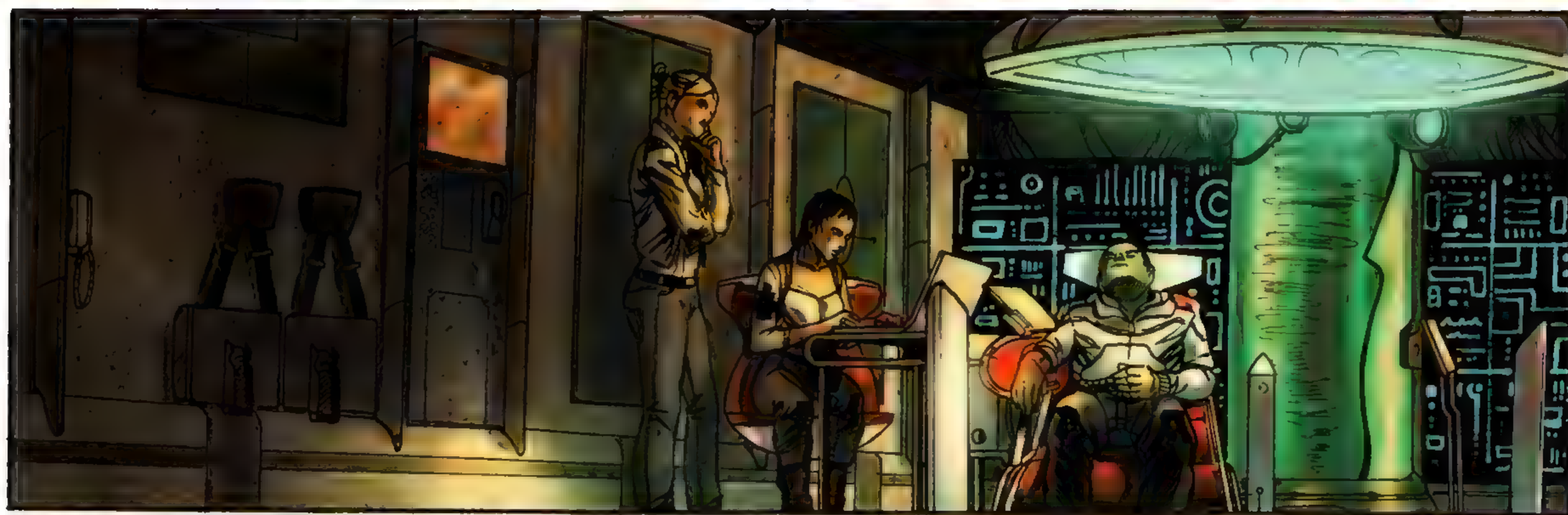
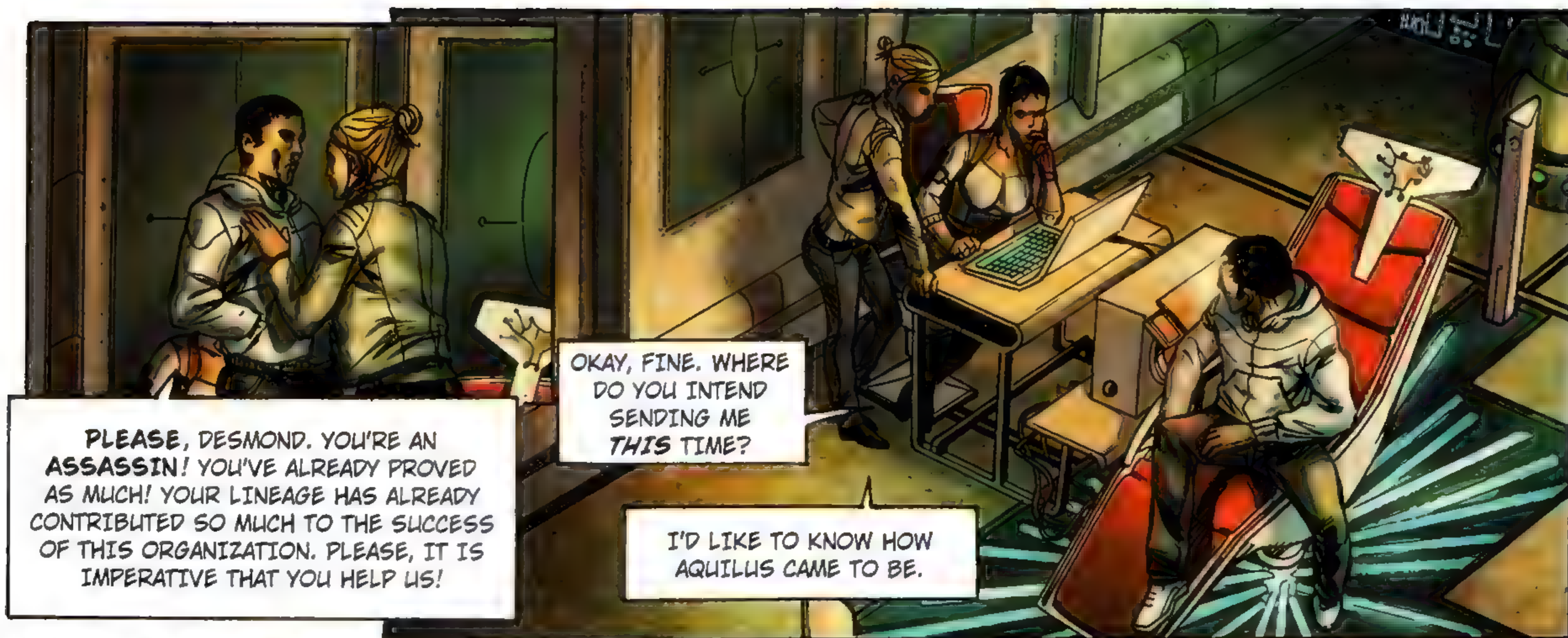


AND YOU EXPECT ME TO GET BACK ON THIS MACHINE AS WE'RE **DRIVING**?! ARE YOU **CRAZY**?

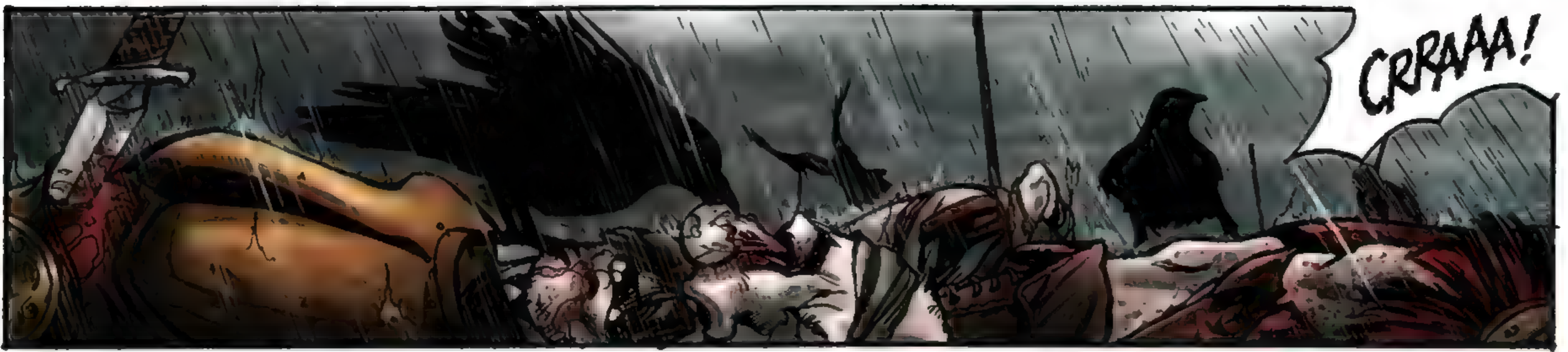


THE **ANIMUS** IS COMPLETELY OPERATIONAL. BUT IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, WE CAN STRAP YOU IN TO STOP YOU SLIPPING WHEN WE TURN CORNERS?









CRRAAA!



I'VE FOUND ANOTHER!

CRRAAA!

CRRAAA!



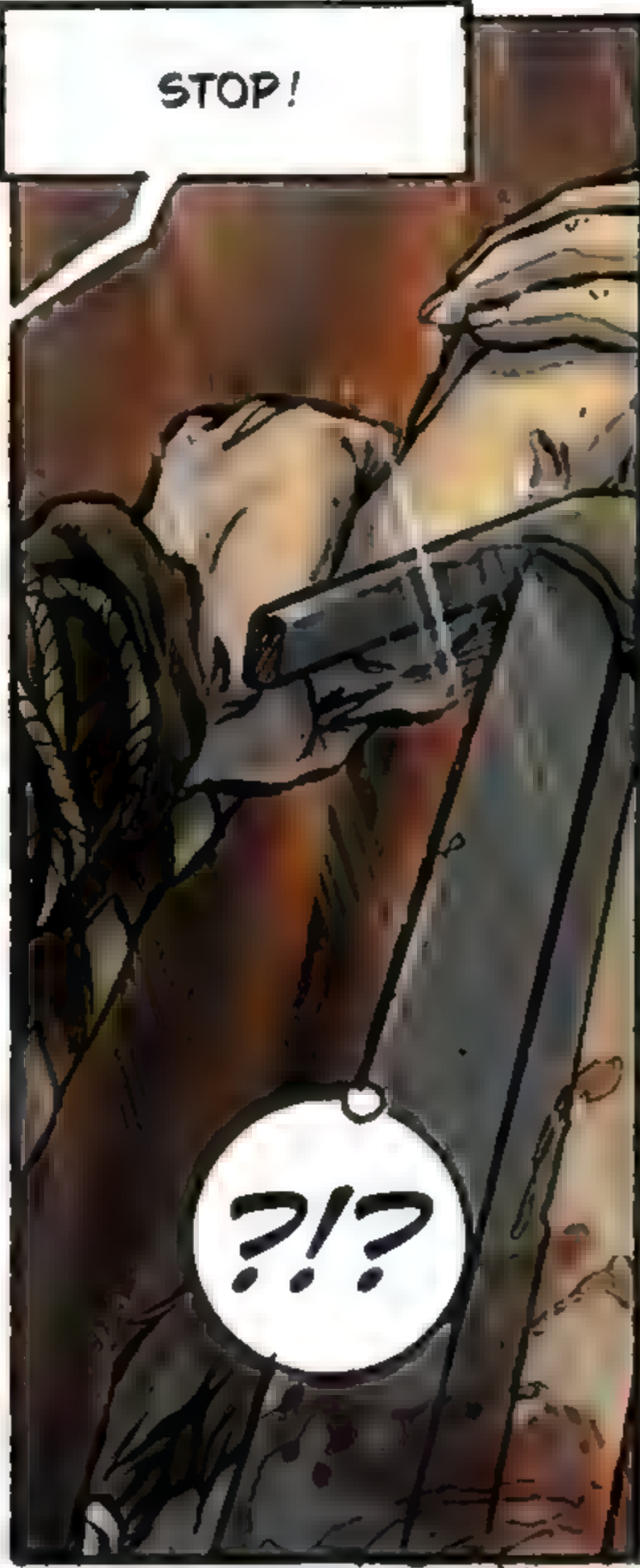
AARGH



THERE IS ONE IN HERE, STILL BREATHING!



DIE, MONGREL---



STOP!

?!?



SPARE THIS ONE.

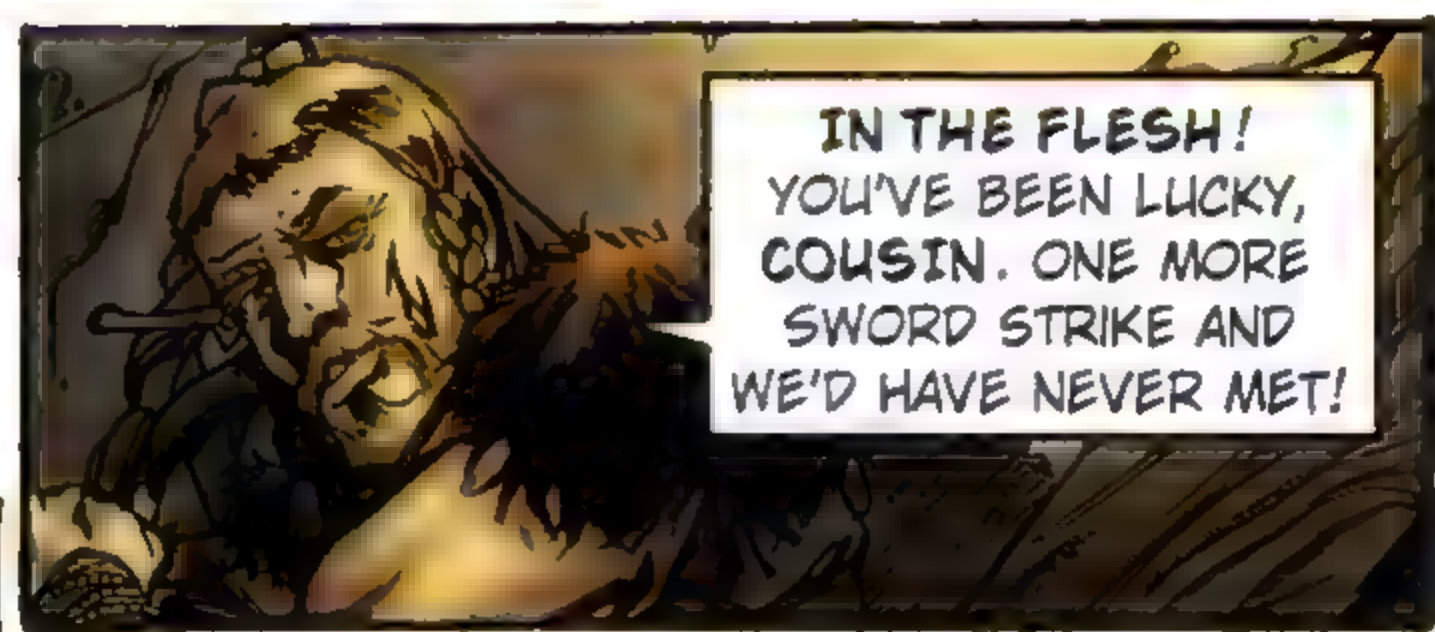
WHY? THE ORDERS ARE CLEAR. NO SURVIVORS.

I AM AWARE OF THE ORDERS...



BUT I KNOW THIS MAN!







"FOR MANY MONTHS,  
OUR TROOPS CROSSED THE  
DANUBE AND THE RHINE. WE  
ATTEMPTED TO MARCH OVER  
THE ROMAN BORDERS BY  
ATTACKING THE ENEMY CAMPS  
AND FORTIFICATIONS.




"TODAY, WE  
HAVE EARNED A  
NEW VICTORY..."



"THE ROUTE TO THE  
WEST WILL SOON OPEN  
ITSELF BEFORE US!"









I'M TRULY SORRY ABOUT YOUR WOUND. IT IS QUITE DEEP, BUT YOU WILL SURVIVE.


THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, ACCIPITER. THIS STABBING WAS NOT MADE BY ONE OF YOUR ALEMANNI...



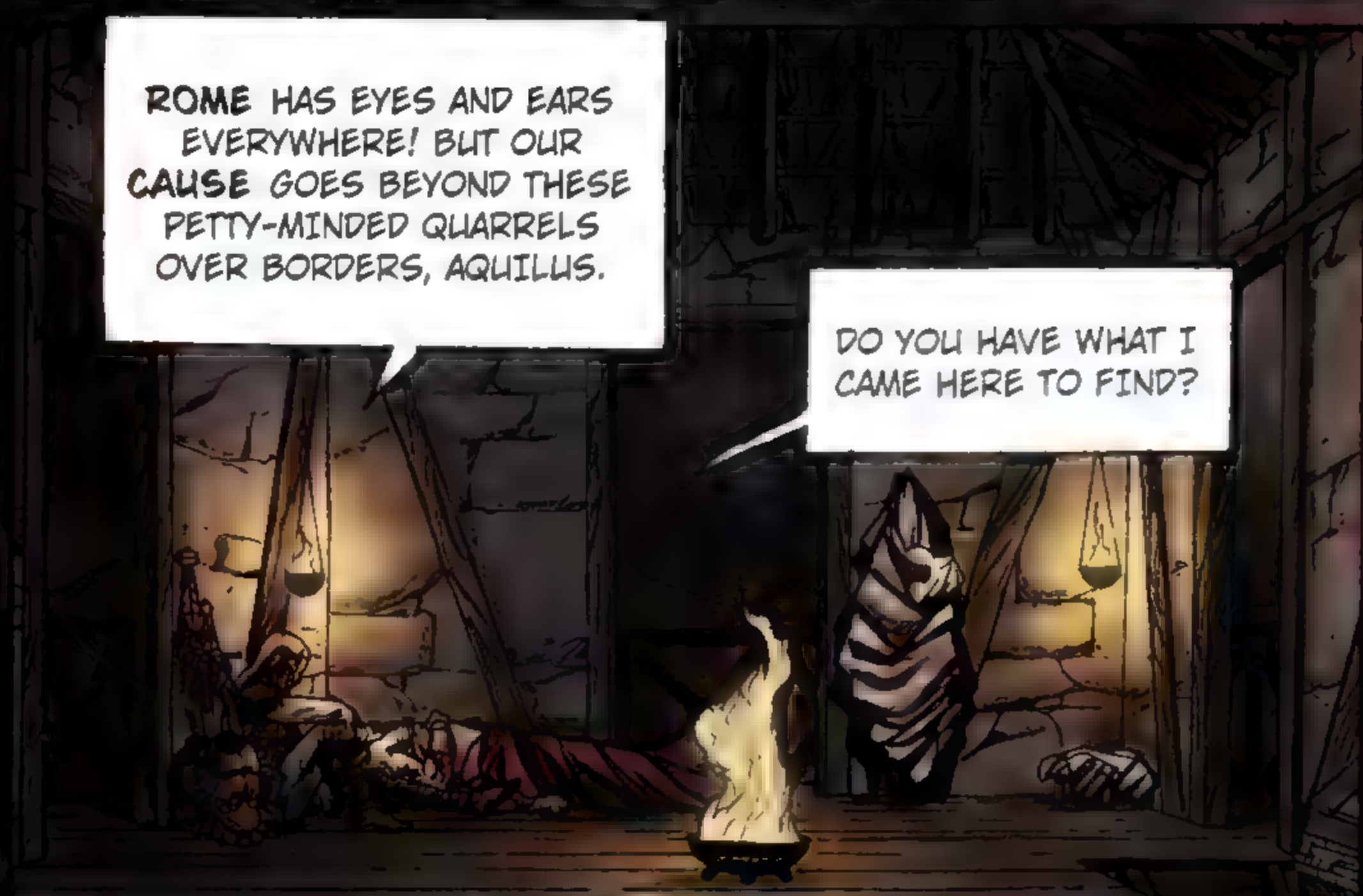
"IT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY A ROMAN GENERAL!



"I DON'T KNOW HOW HE KNEW OF MY INTENTIONS, BUT WHEN I ARRIVED AT THE CAMP, GRACCHUS WAS EXPECTING ME...




"HE LED ME INTO A TRAP... AND I FELL RIGHT INTO IT."




ROME HAS EYES AND EARS EVERYWHERE! BUT OUR CAUSE GOES BEYOND THESE PETTY-MINDED QUARRELS OVER BORDERS, AQUILUS.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT I CAME HERE TO FIND?

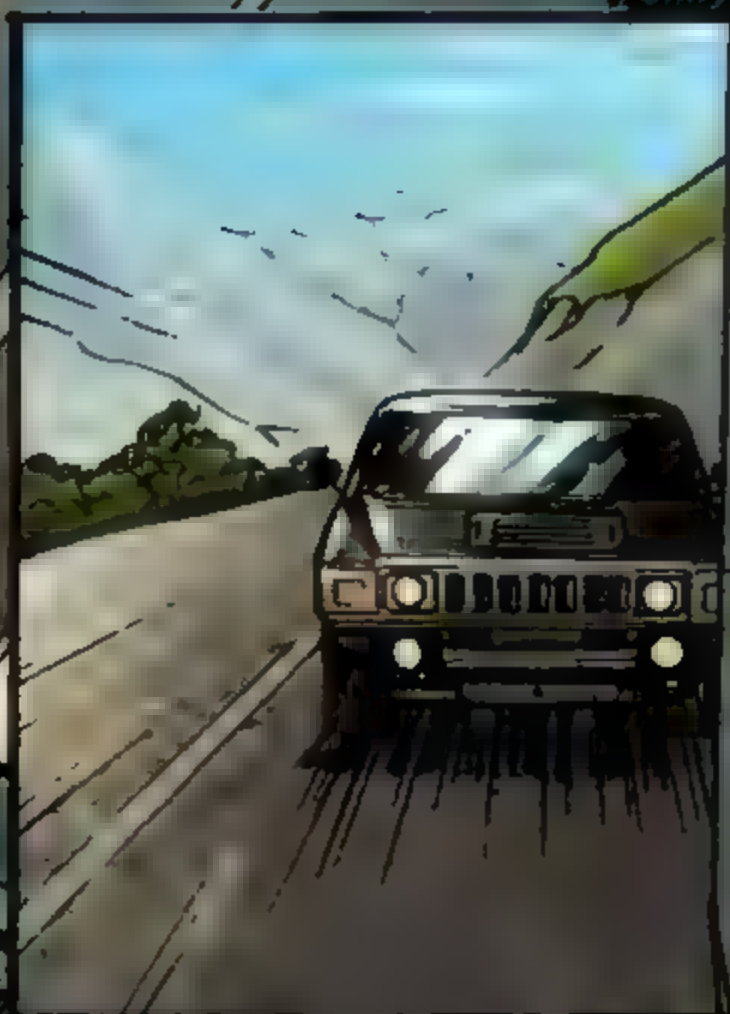
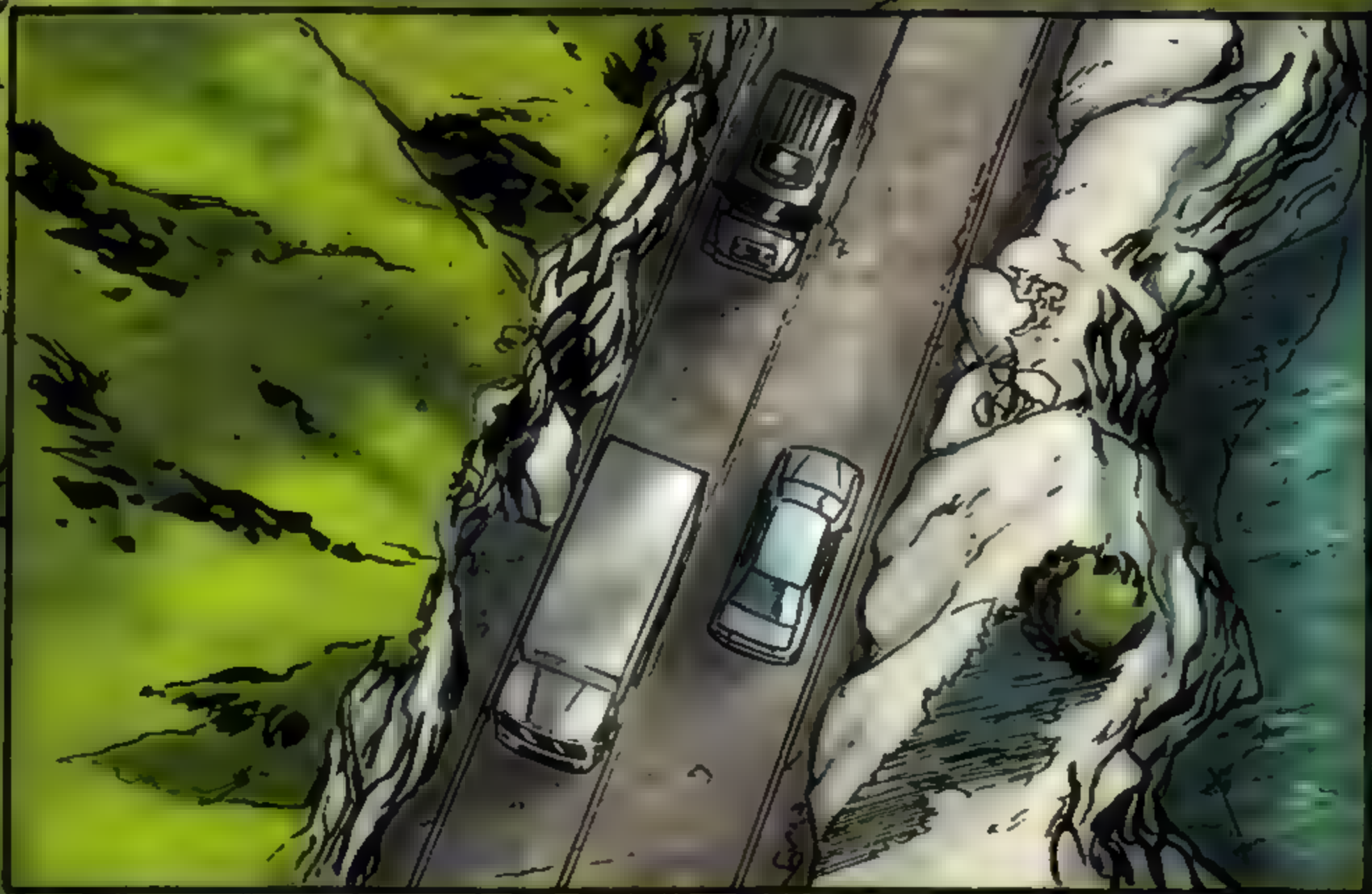


YES... AND I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU WHEN YOU ARE WELL ENOUGH TO RIDE.



BUT FOR NOW, WHAT YOU REALLY NEED IS PLENTY OF REST!





I GET THE FEELING WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED CLOSELY.

WHAT GIVES YOU THAT IDEA?



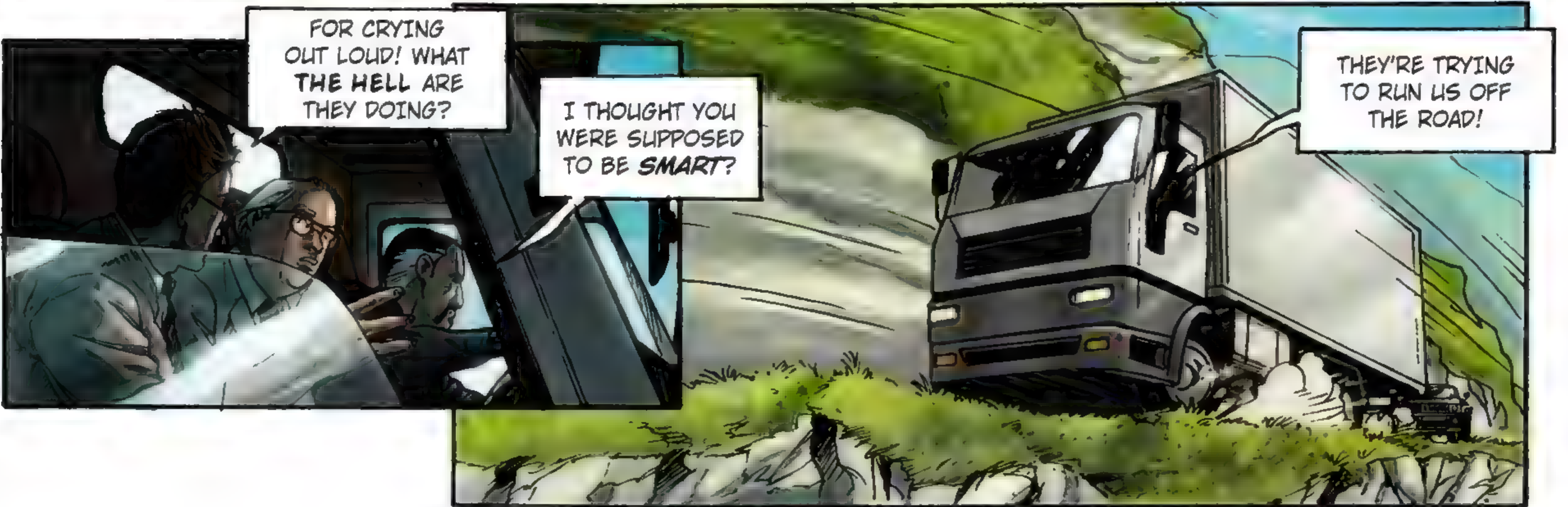
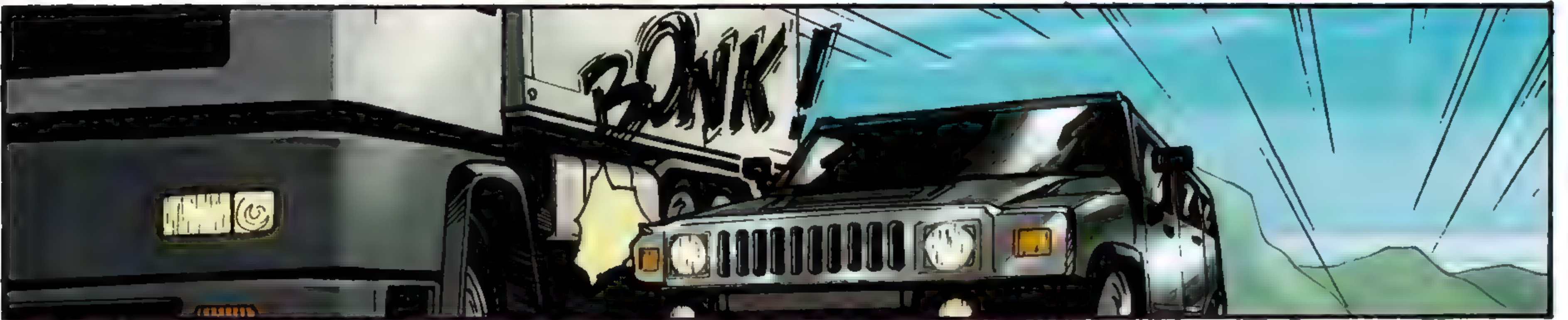
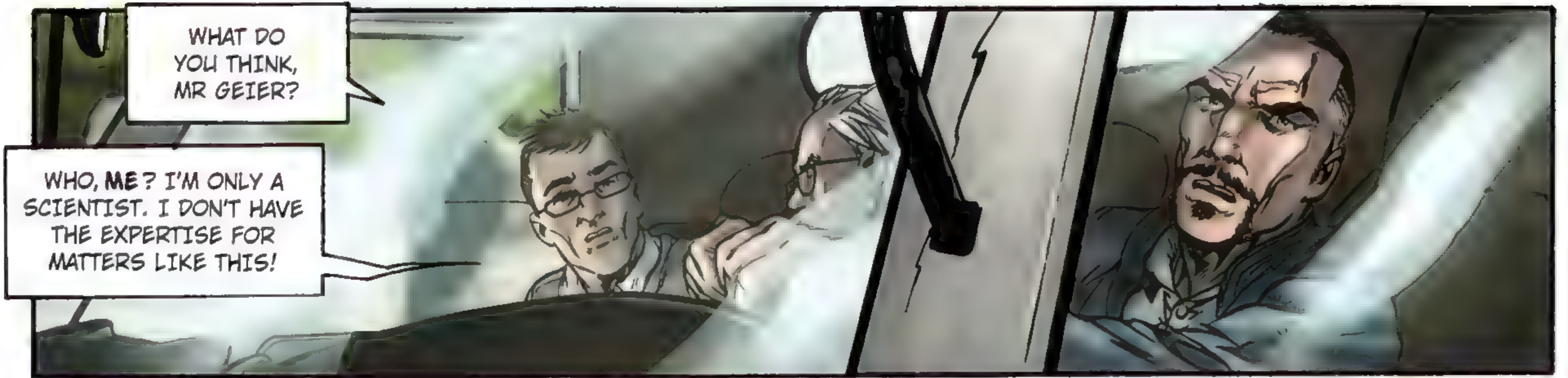
THIS HUMMER BEHIND US... IT'S BEEN FOLLOWING US FOR MILES.



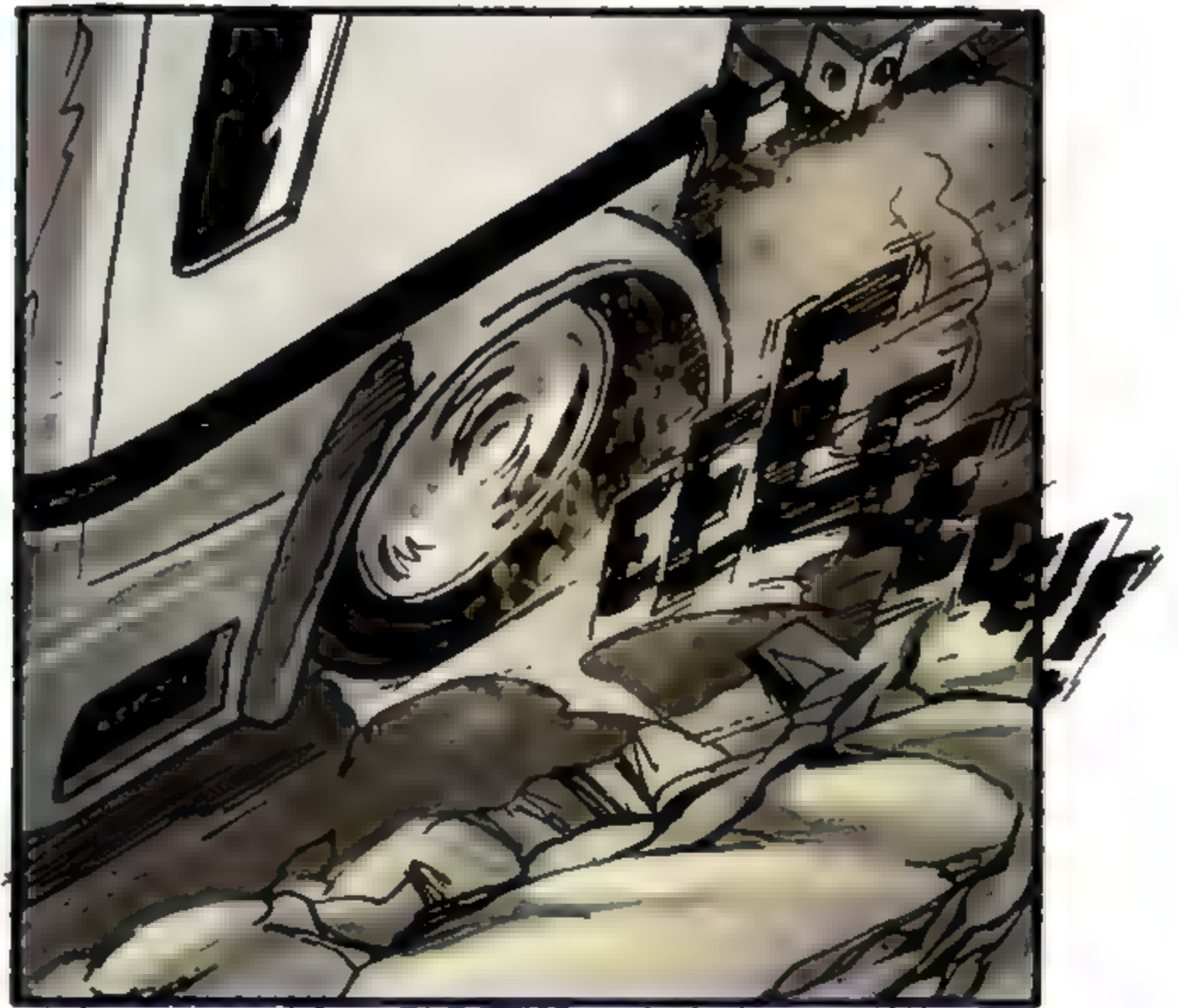
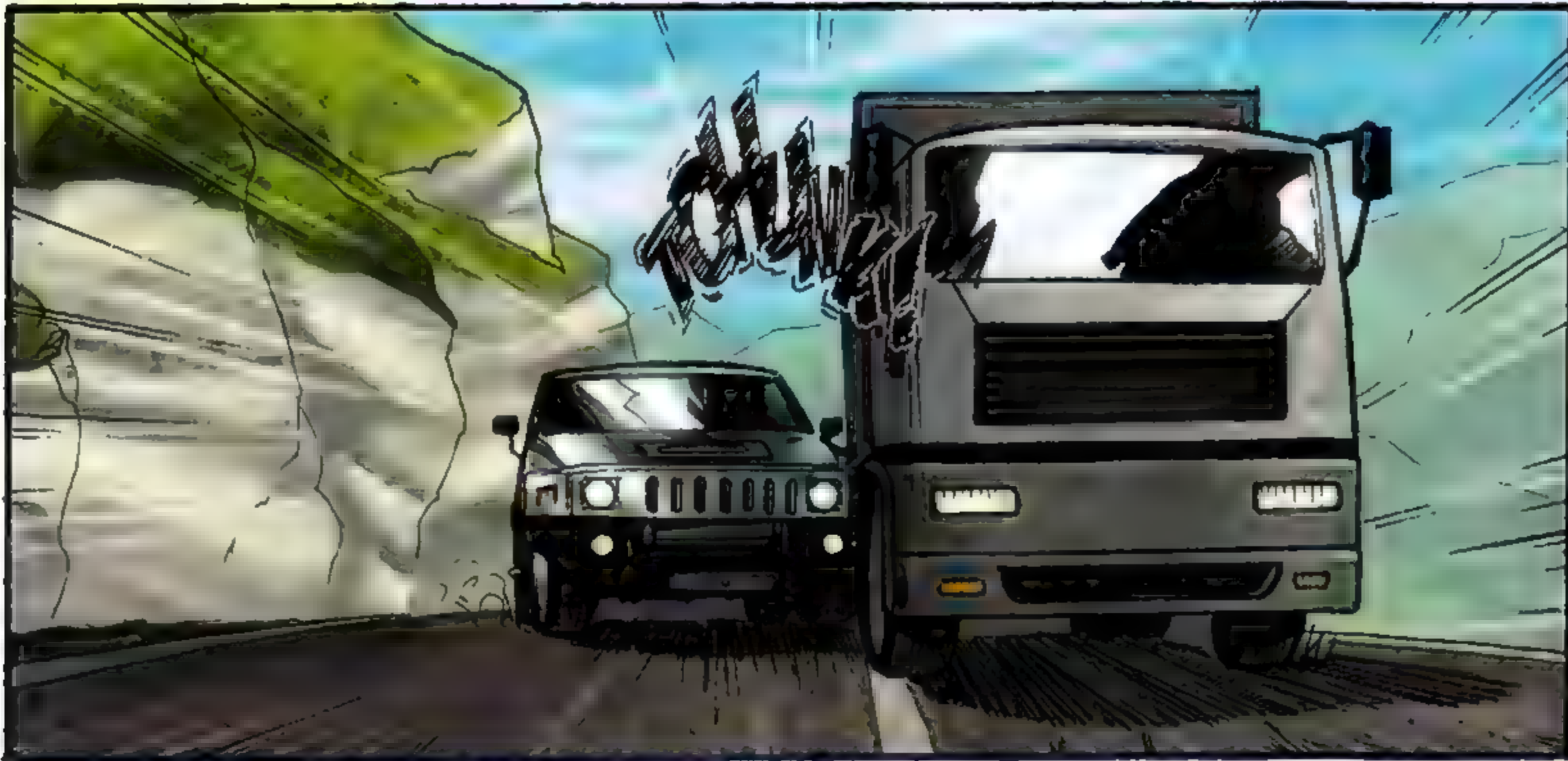
AND?

AND I'M DRIVING SLOWLY, BUT IT ISN'T OVERTAKING US. I'VE BEEN TAKING LOTS OF DETOURS, BUT IT'S STILL THERE!

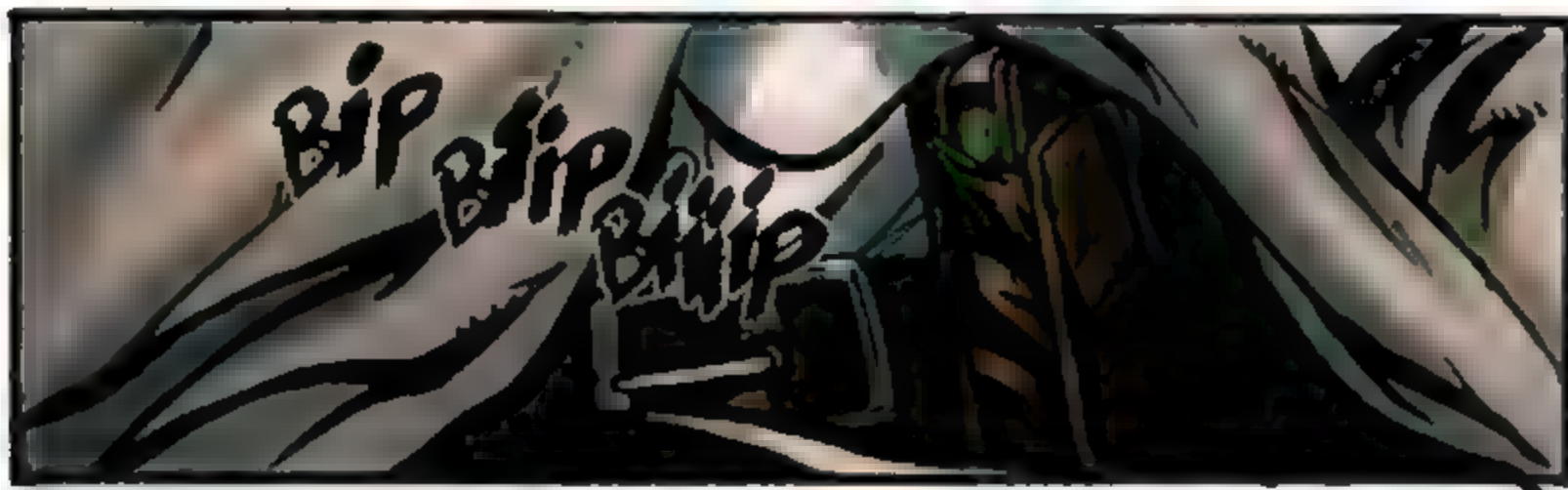












YES, LUCY?

TELL ME WHAT  
JUST HAPPENED,  
HERMAN?



WE WERE  
BEING ATTACKED—

ATTACKED!?!

UHH--YES.



BUT DON'T WORRY, THE  
DANGER DEFINITELY  
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN  
REMOVED.

ARE YOU  
SURE?



ABSOLUTELY.



HOW'S  
DESMOND?

NO DISRUPTION.  
THE SESSION  
IS CONTINUING  
AS NORMAL.





THANK YOU, ACCIPITER,  
FOR EVERYTHING.

I ONLY DID MY DUTY  
TO YOU AND OUR  
PEOPLE, COUSIN.

WHEN YOUR HORDES REACH  
GALL, TRY TO AVOID RAVAGING  
MY TOWN, WILL YOU?

YOU HAVE MY WORD, AQUILLUS.  
I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY  
POWER TO SPARE LUGDUNUM\*!

NOW THE TIME HAS COME  
FOR YOU TO RETURN TO  
YOUR PEOPLE.

TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF IT. IT  
HAS COME A VERY LONG WAY AND  
ITS VALUE IS PRICELESS.

HERE IS  
THE OBJECT.

GO CAREFULLY,  
AQUILLUS.

DON'T WORRY,  
IT IS IN  
SAFE HANDS!

I AM SURE  
OF IT.

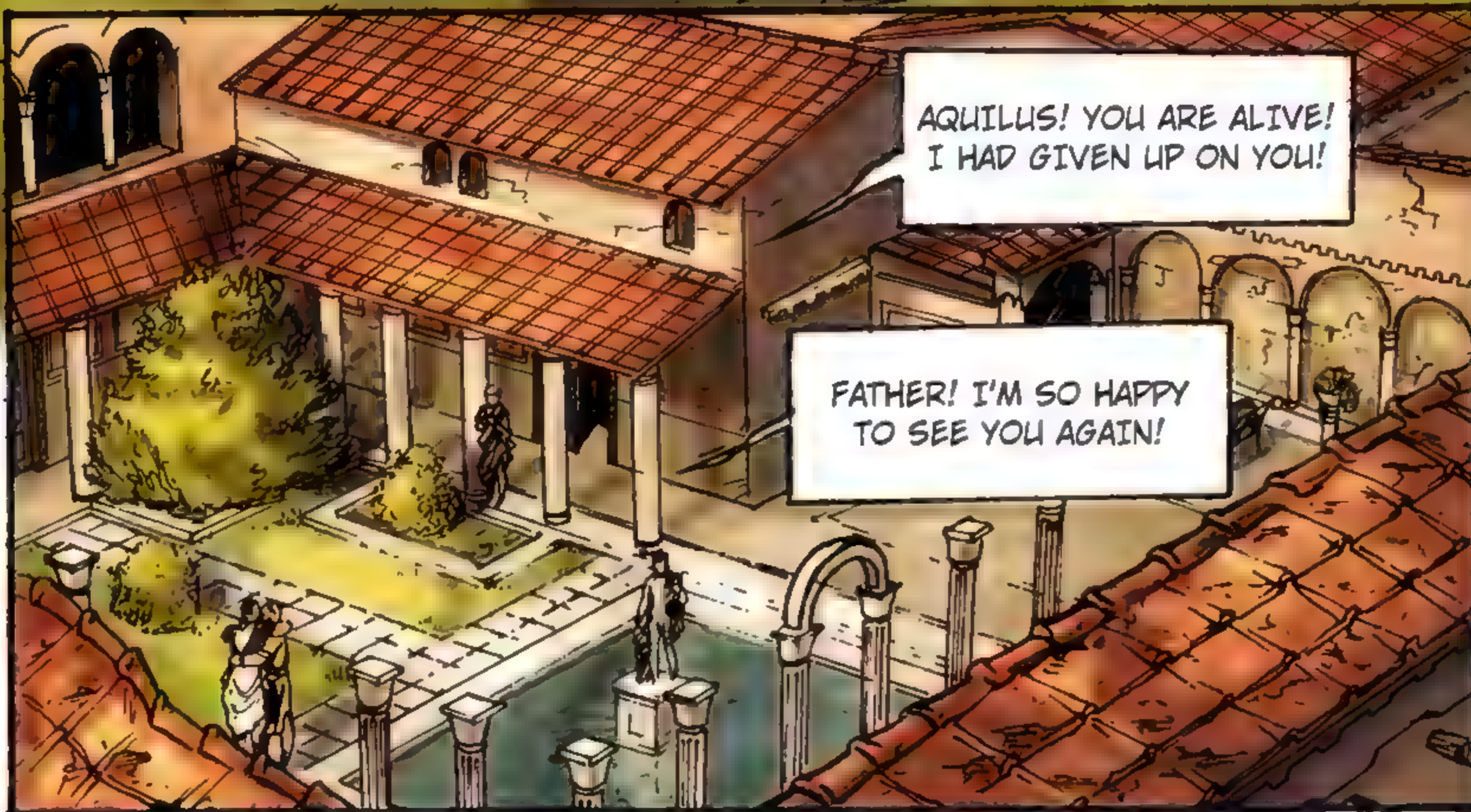
FAREWELL,  
COUSIN.

\*WE DO NOT KNOW THE ROLE PLAYED BY ACCIPITER IN HISTORY, BUT IN 259, THE ALEMANNI ACTUALLY FLOODED THE RHONE VALLEY AND SPARED LUGDUNUM (KNOWN TODAY AS THE TOWN OF LYON).





LUGDUNUM, CAPITAL OF GAUL.  
SEVERAL WEEKS LATER...



AQUILLUS! YOU ARE ALIVE!  
I HAD GIVEN UP ON YOU!

FATHER! I'M SO HAPPY  
TO SEE YOU AGAIN!



TRAGIC NEWS REACHED  
US FROM GERMANIA. THEY  
SPOKE OF A CRUSHING  
DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF  
THE ALEMANNI. I FEARED  
THAT I WOULD NEVER SEE  
YOU AGAIN!

I ONLY JUST  
SURVIVED!



SALONINUS IS USELESS!  
HIS FATHER, GALLIENUS, IS A COWARD!  
AND HIS GRANDFATHER, VALERIAN, IS A  
SHADOW OF HIS FORMER SELF!  
THE GAULS WILL FIND THEMSELVES  
ANOTHER LEADER. I'M PREPARED TO BET  
MY PEPLOS ON IT!\*

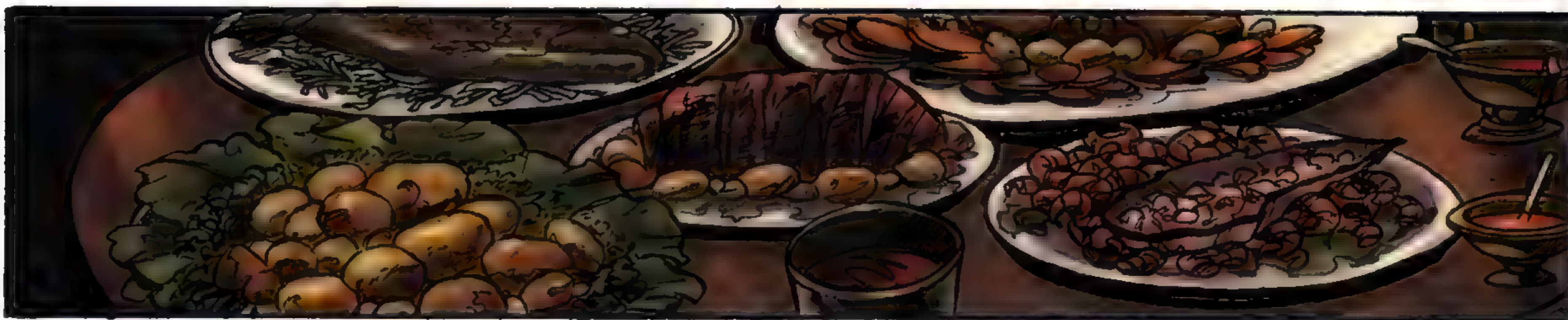


AH, AQUILLUS--DO YOU  
REMEMBER SENATOR  
CAIUS VULTUR?

HOW COULD I FORGET  
OUR FAMILY'S MOST  
FAITHFUL FRIEND?  
I HAVE OFTEN HEARD SO  
MUCH SAID ABOUT YOU!

I AM PLEASED TO SEE YOU  
AGAIN, AQUILLUS. LAST TIME  
I SAW YOU, YOU WERE  
BARELY THIS HIGH!









HOW IS YOUR MISSION GOING, AQUILUS?

THERE IS MUCH TO TELL YOU. BUT, IN BRIEF, THE TARGET HAS BEEN ACQUIRED.

I HAVE THE OBJECT!



I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU PLACE IT SOMEWHERE SAFE IMMEDIATELY SO THAT NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO COVET OR SEIZE IT!

I WILL WATCH OVER IT, DON'T WORRY.



ALLOW ME TO PLACE IT IN MY SECRET CHEST THIS EVENING.

BUT FIRST, TELL ME ABOUT YOUR MEETING WITH YOUR COUSIN, ACCIPITER.



AS I SAID A SHORT WHILE AGO, THE MEETING VERY NEARLY DIDN'T HAPPEN!



I WAS STABBED BY GRACCHUS UPON MY ARRIVAL AT THE CAMP.



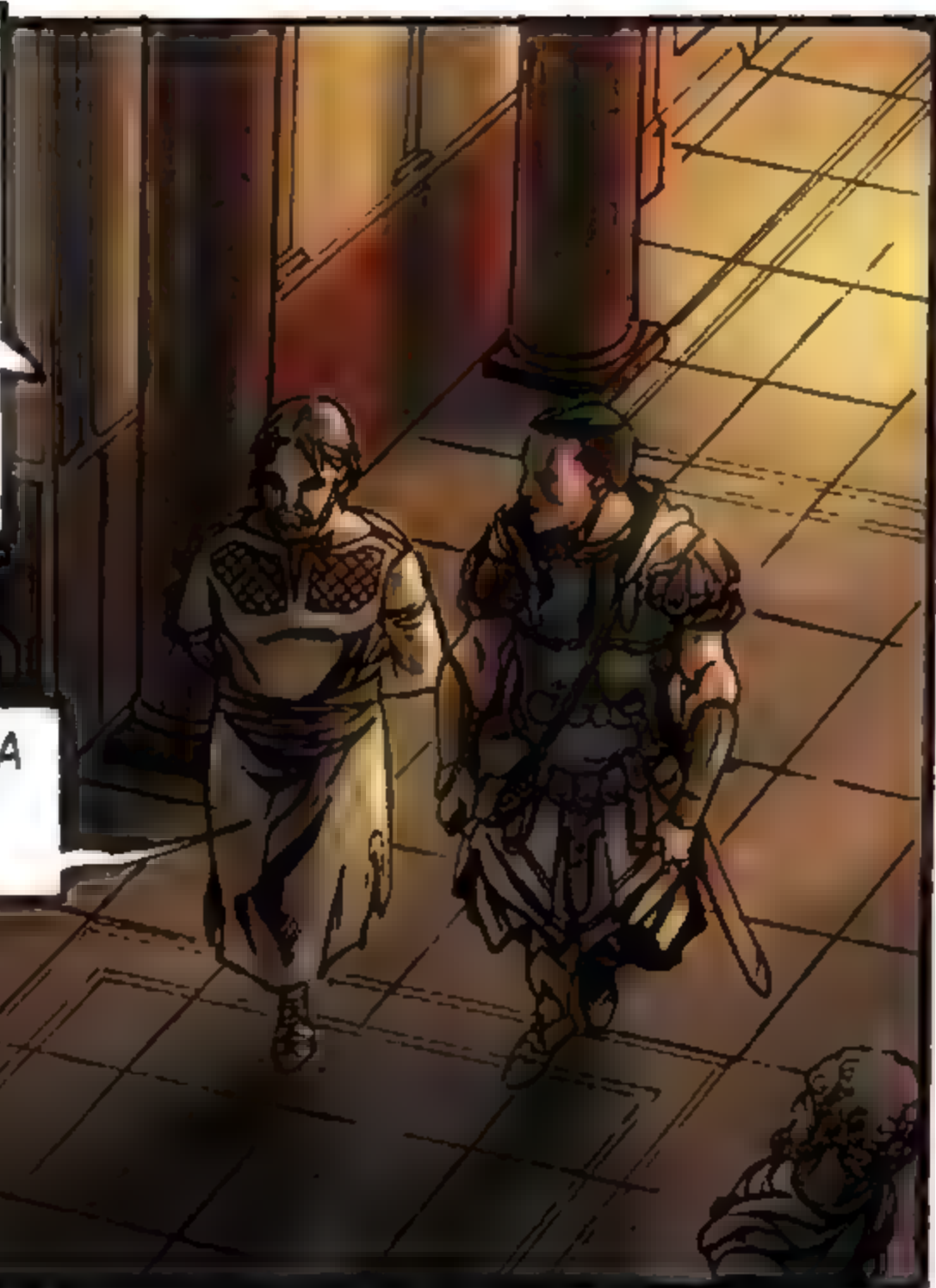
HOW IS SUCH A THING POSSIBLE?

IT'S VERY SIMPLE: WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED, FATHER!



HMMM, YES. IT WAS INEVITABLE. OUR ADVERSARIES ARE WATCHING US. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA AS TO THE **IDENTITY** OF THE TRAITOR?



FAUSTINUS HAS RECENTLY VISITED US A NUMBER OF TIMES. A LITTLE TOO OFTEN FOR MY TASTES...

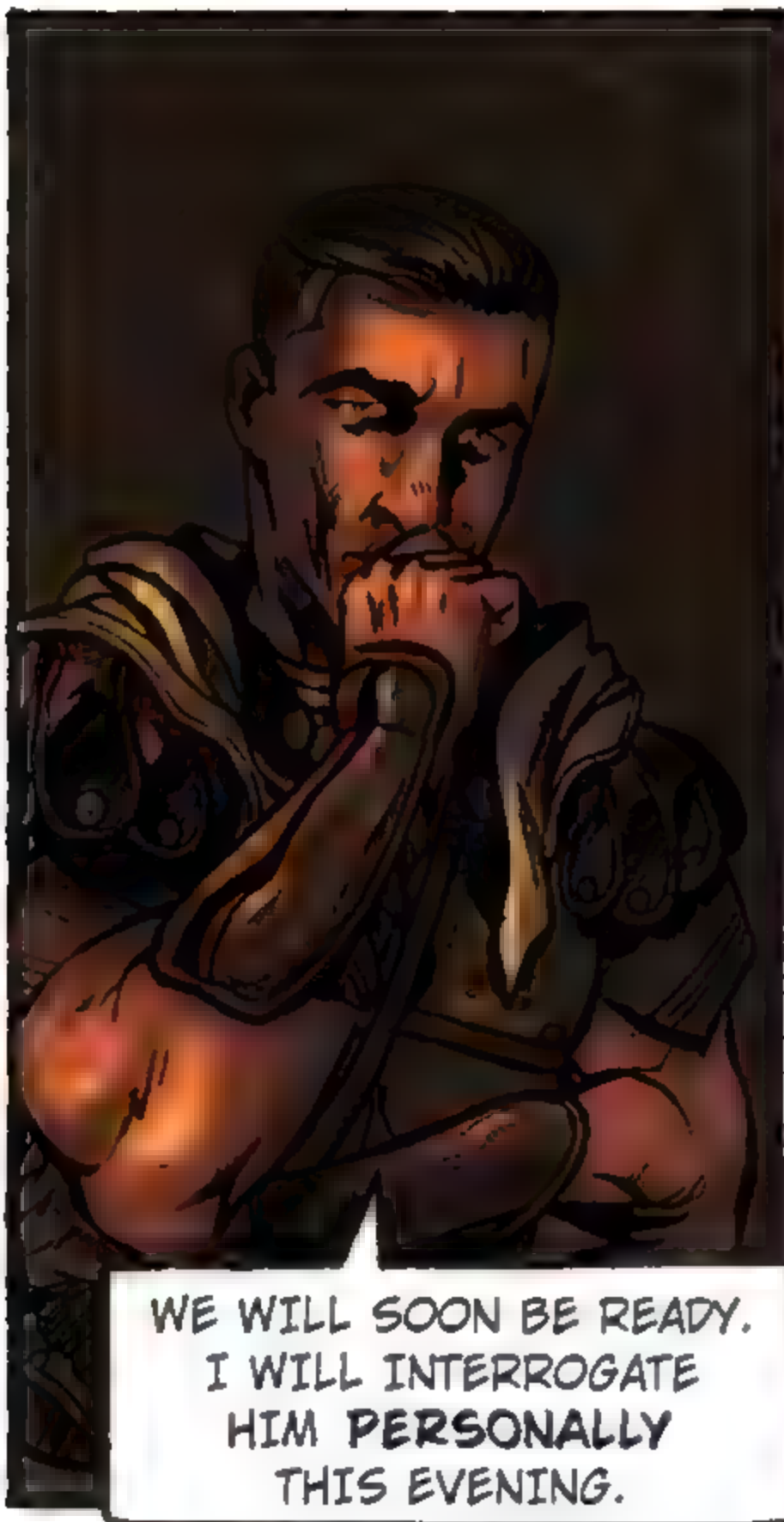
WHAT? YOU SUSPECT THE BISHOP OF LUGDUNUM?



BEYOND ANY DOUBT.



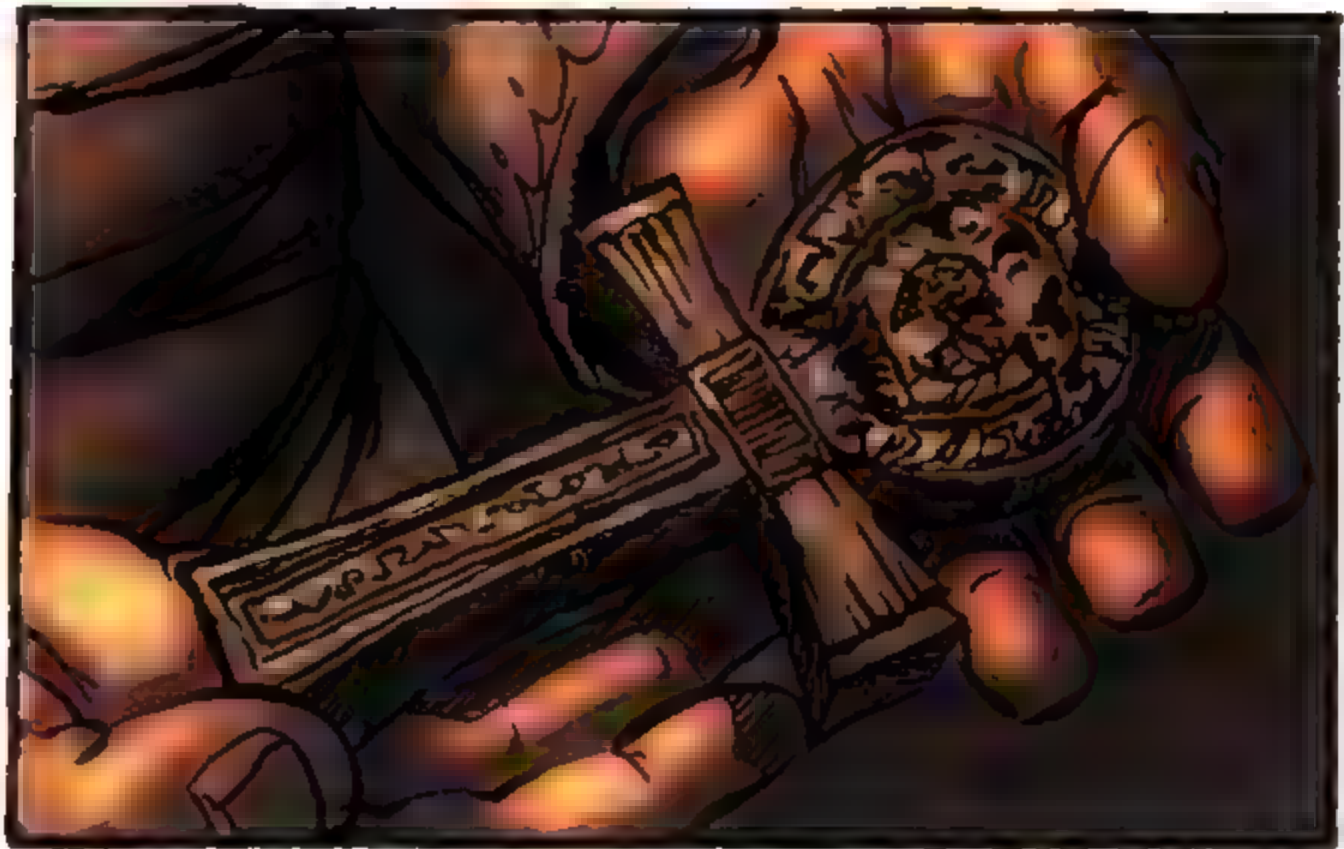
HE HAS ACCOMPLICES WORKING FOR HIM. BUT I WOULD STAKE MY LIFE ON HIM BEING THE MAIN INFORMANT FOR OUR OPPOSITION!



WE WILL SOON BE READY. I WILL INTERROGATE HIM **PERSONALLY** THIS EVENING.



BEFORE I LET YOU GO, SON, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE RISKED YOUR LIFE FOR...







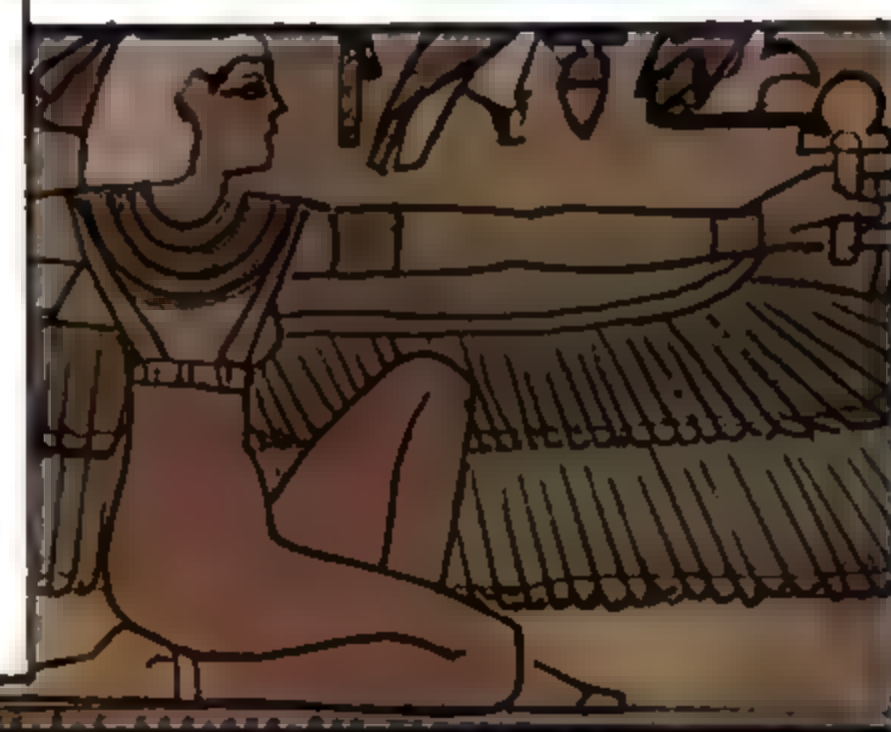
WHAT IS IT? I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH AN OBJECT.

THE ANCIENT WORD FOR THIS ANSATE CROSS IS 'ANKH'.

"IF YOU CONSULT EGYPTIAN MYTHOLOGY, THE ANKH WAS ONE OF THE OBJECTS OF ISIS, THE GREAT GODDESS, PROTECTOR OF THE EGYPTIAN KINGDOM..."



"THIS CROSS WAS A SORT OF KEY WHICH ALLOWED THE HOLDER TO PASS THROUGH THE DOORS OF ETERNITY THAT AWAITED THE TRAVELER FROM BEYOND."



DID THIS OBJECT REALLY BELONG TO AN ACTUAL GODDESS?

THAT'S WHAT THE LEGEND SAYS. BUT AS UNLIKELY AS THAT MAY SEEM, THERE IS A **STRONG POSSIBILITY** THAT IT IS NOT MERELY A SYMBOL.



HOW SO?

THE ANKH CONFERS A VERY REAL POWER. IT CAN KEEP A MAN OR WOMAN FROM ENTERING THE REALM OF DEATH.



IT BESTOWS IMMORTALITY?



NOT EXACTLY.

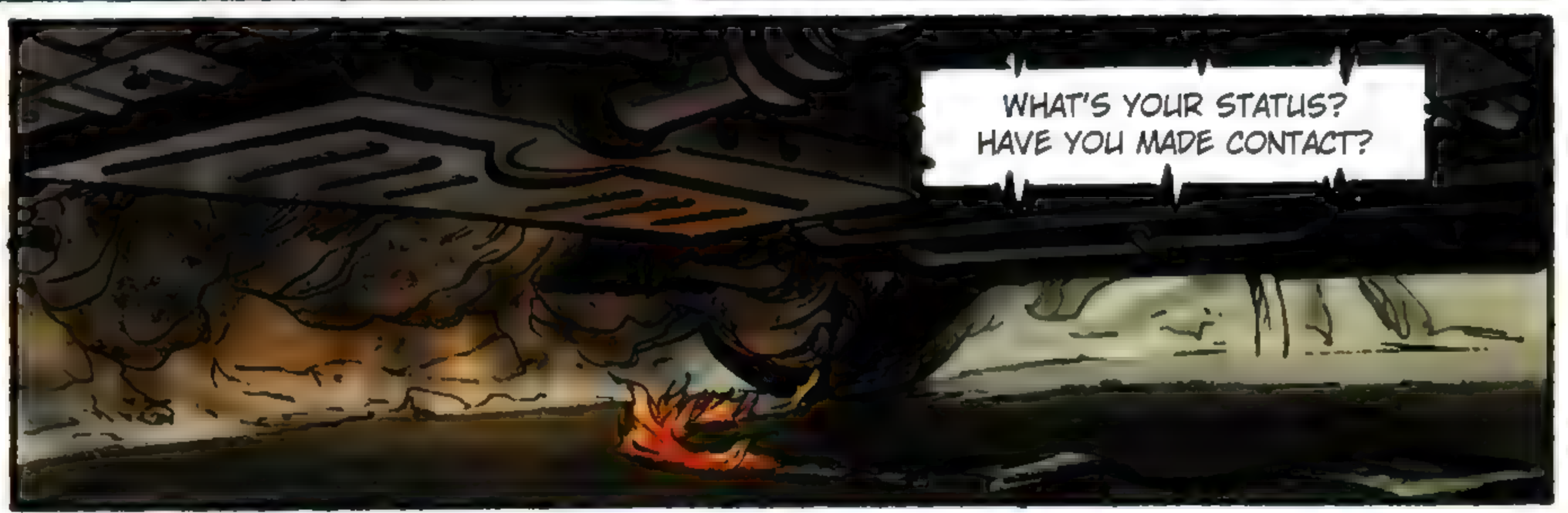
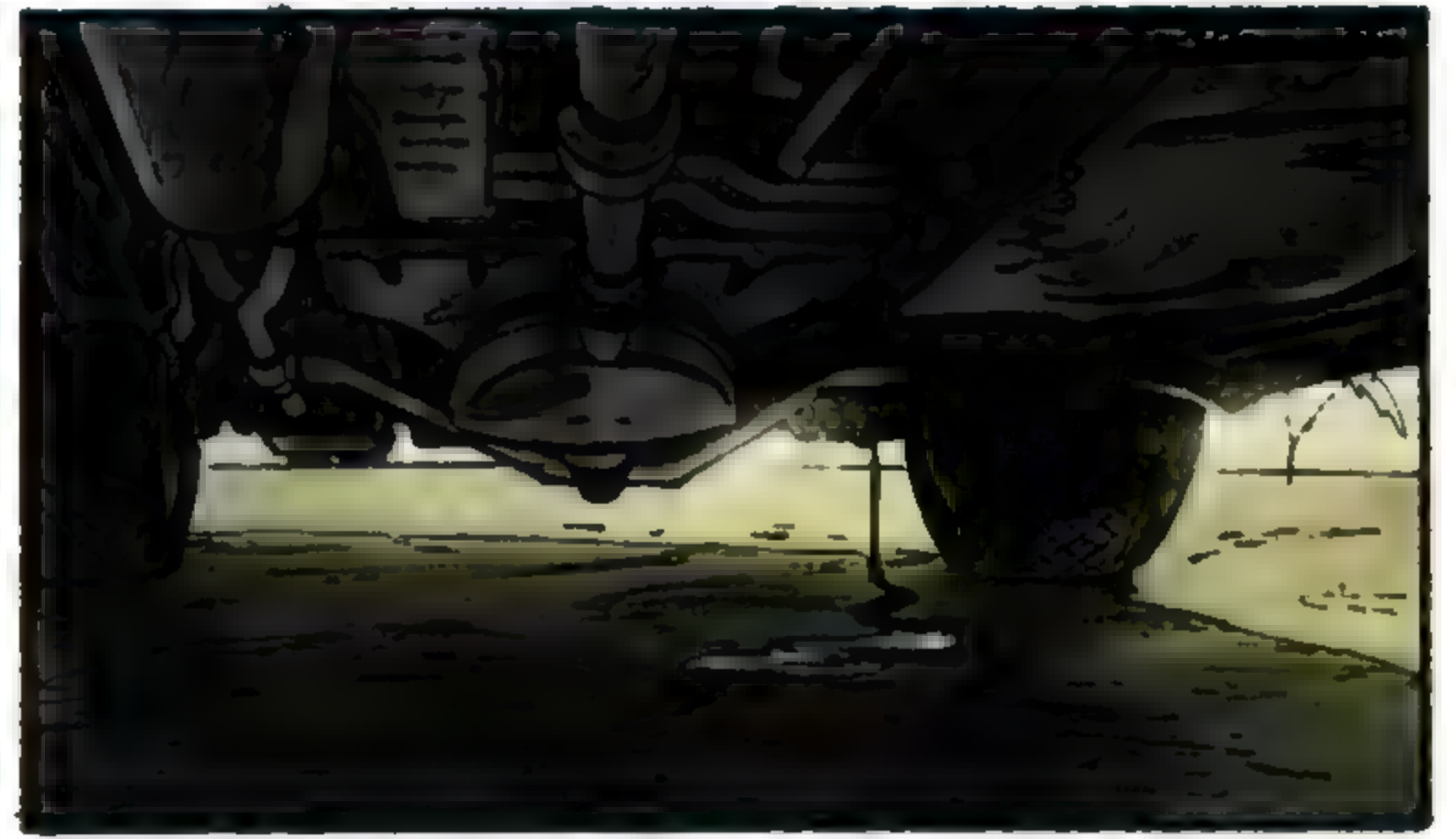
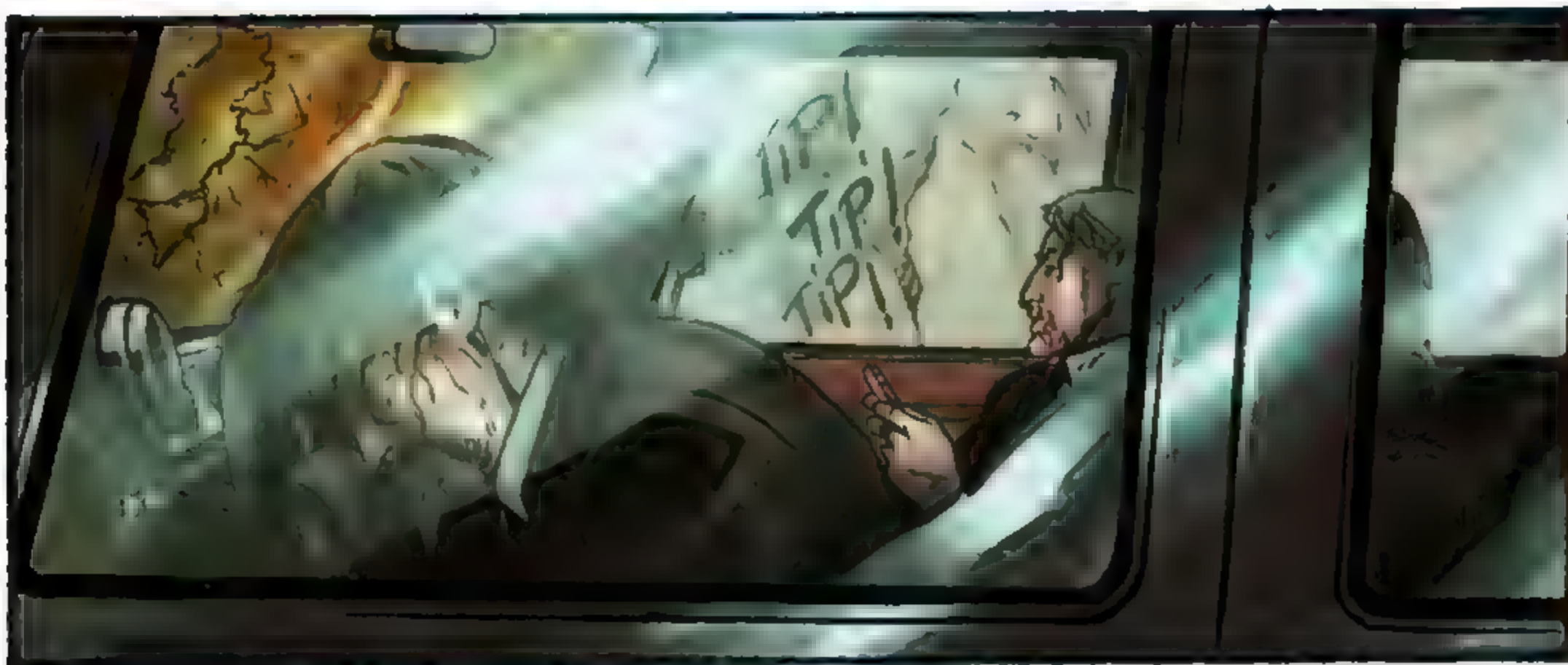
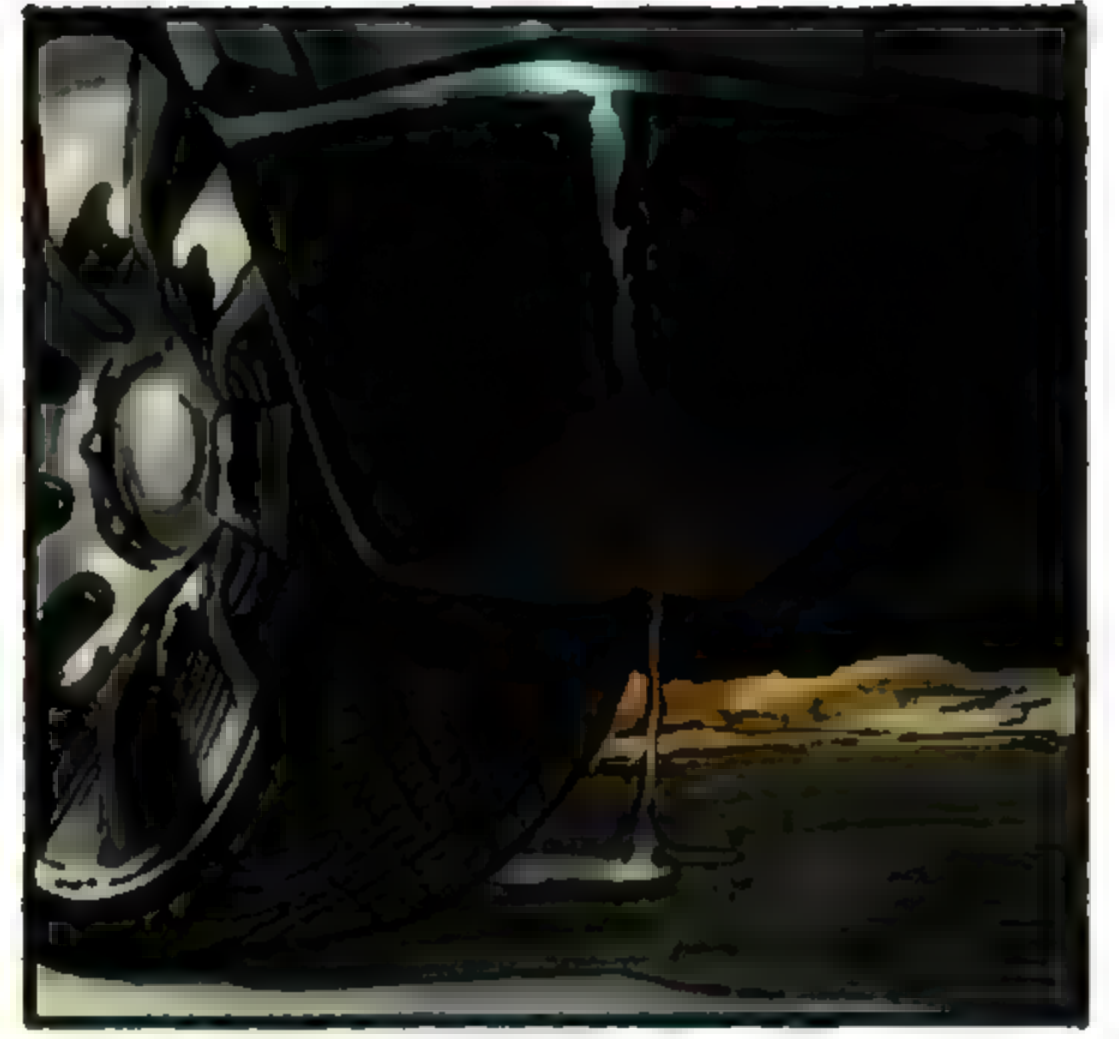
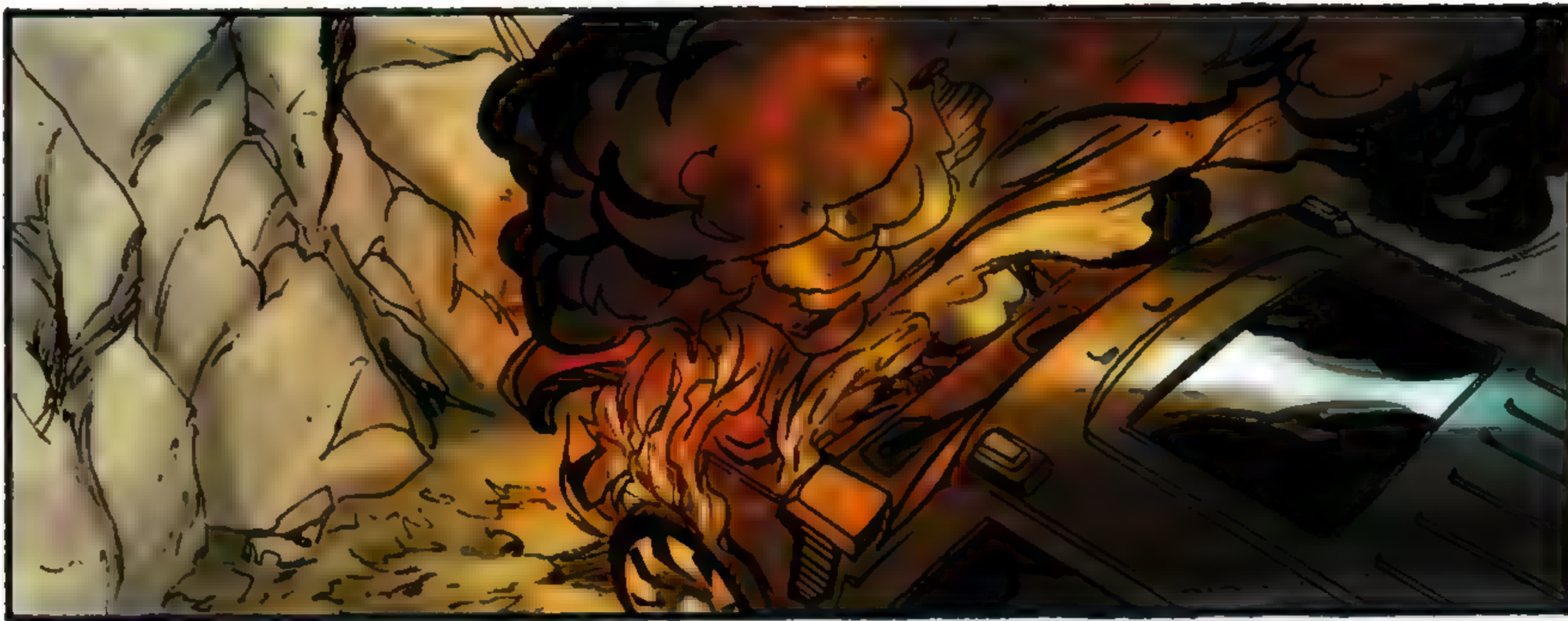


LET'S CALL IT 'TEMPORARY RESURRECTION', IT IS EXTREMELY SHORT MOST OF THE TIME...



...BUT IT IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF A PERSON CARRYING A SECRET LEAVES THIS WORLD TOO SOON.

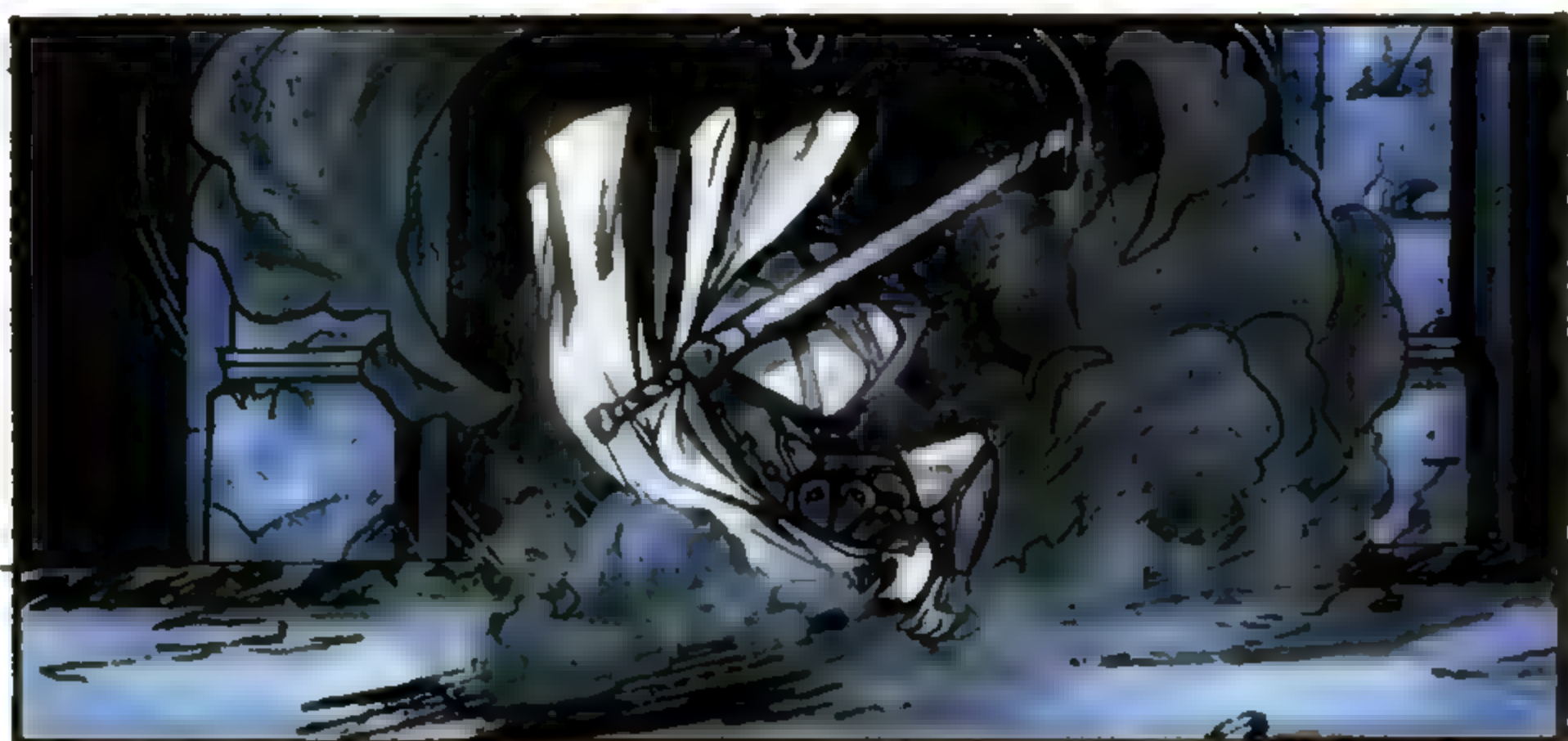
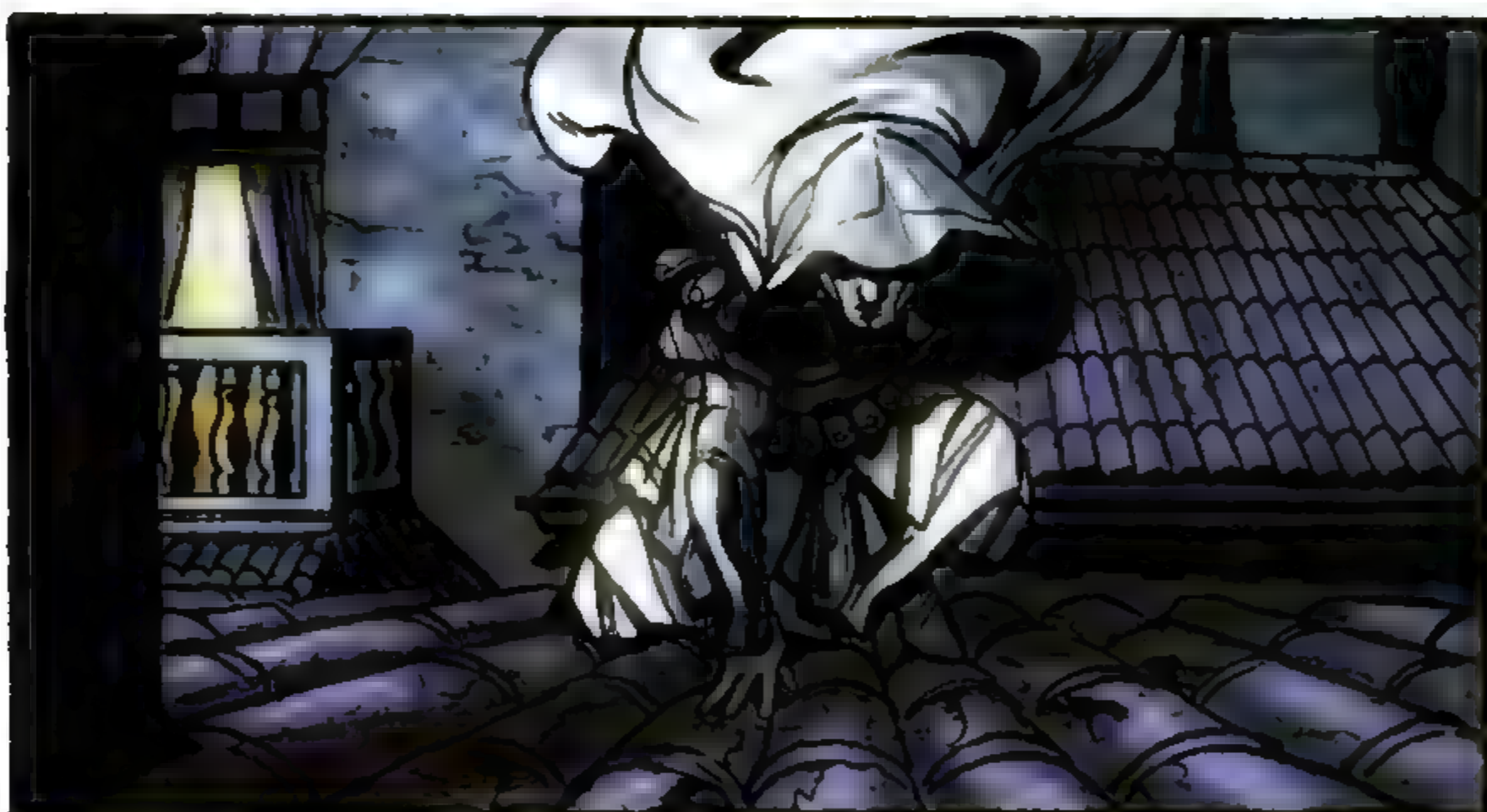
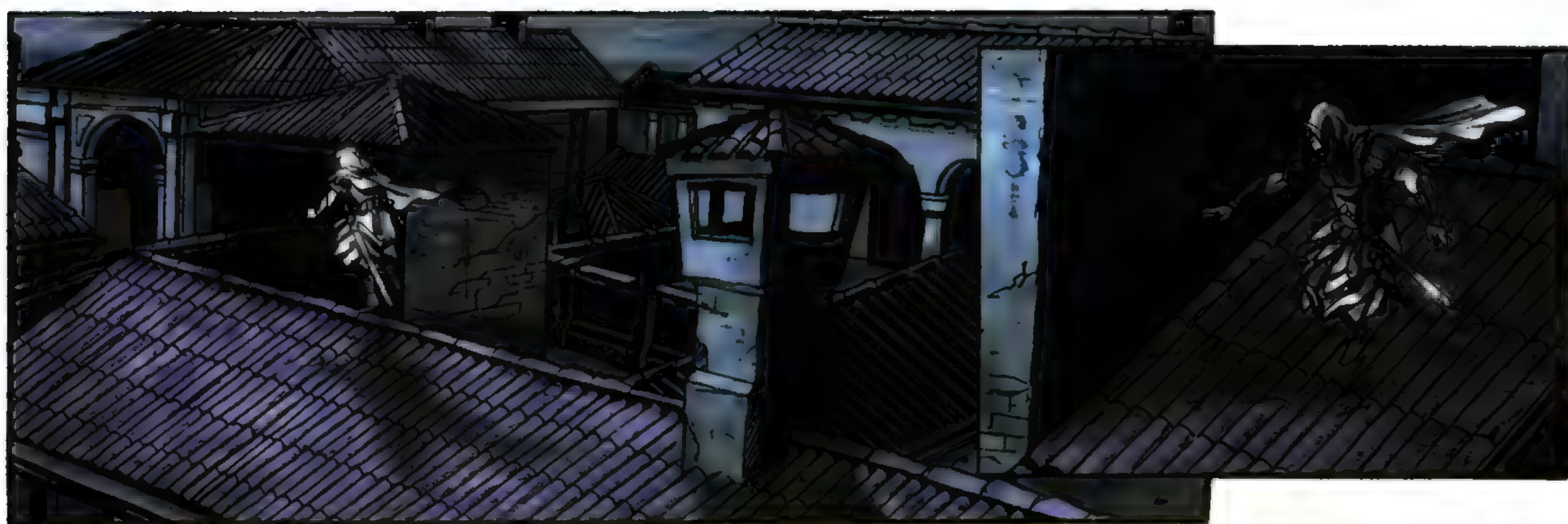




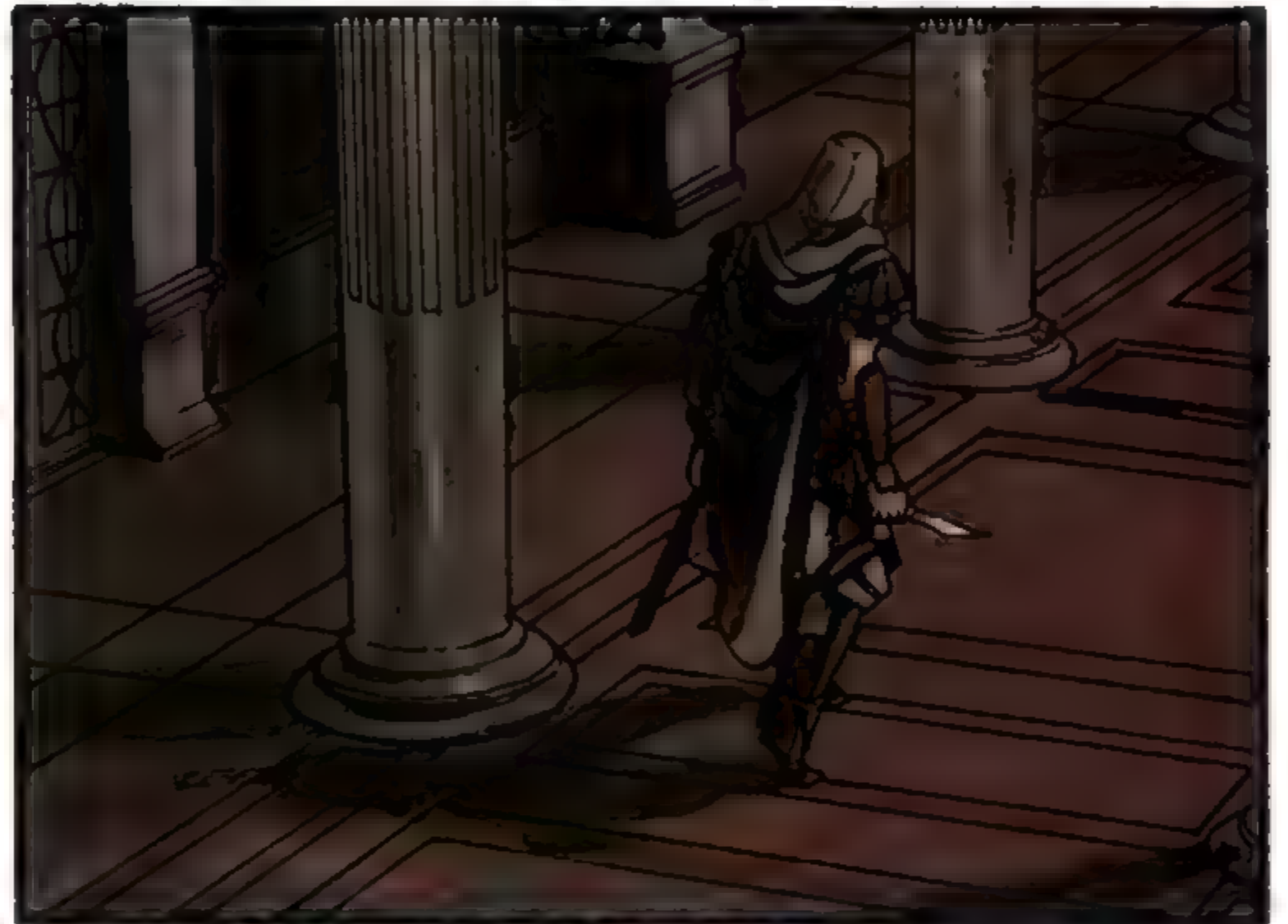
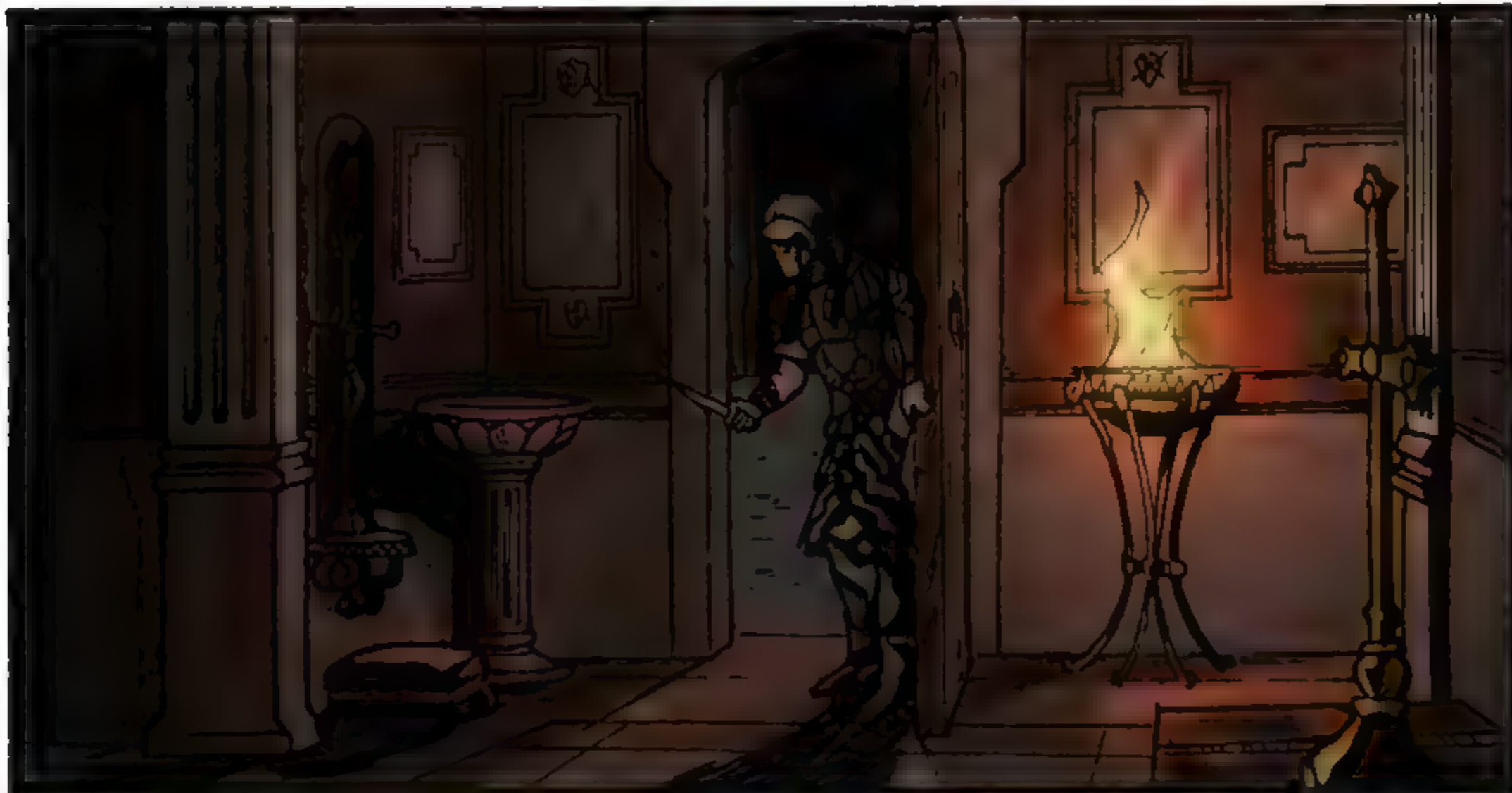
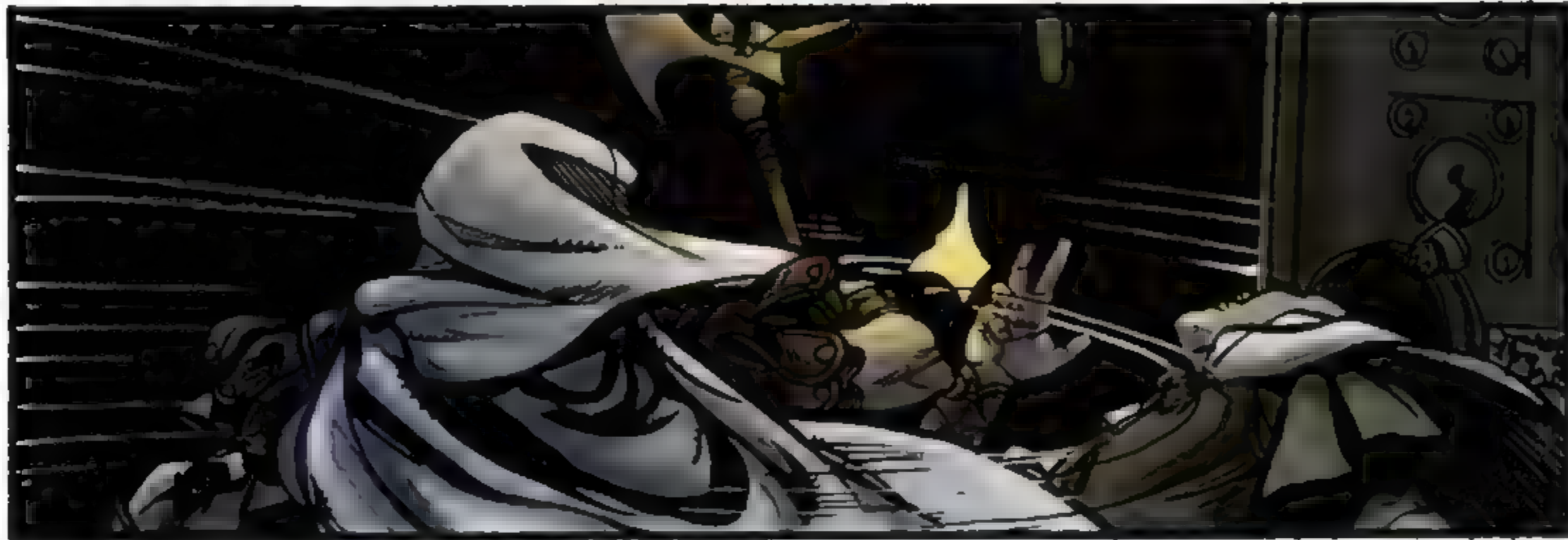
THE TARGET GOT AWAY...  
THE MISSION HAS FAILED...  
IT... IT'S DOWN TO... TO...

...YOU...











BUT I ASK MYSELF, ARE YOU MORE SURPRISED TO SEE ME SUDDENLY APPEAR IN YOUR HOME IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, OR TO SEE ME STILL ALIVE?



I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I'LL MAKE IT CLEARER. IT WAS YOU WHO SOLD ME OUT TO GRACCHUS. AND I AM HERE TO MAKE YOU PAY FOR THE CONTEMPT THAT NEARLY COST ME MY LIFE!

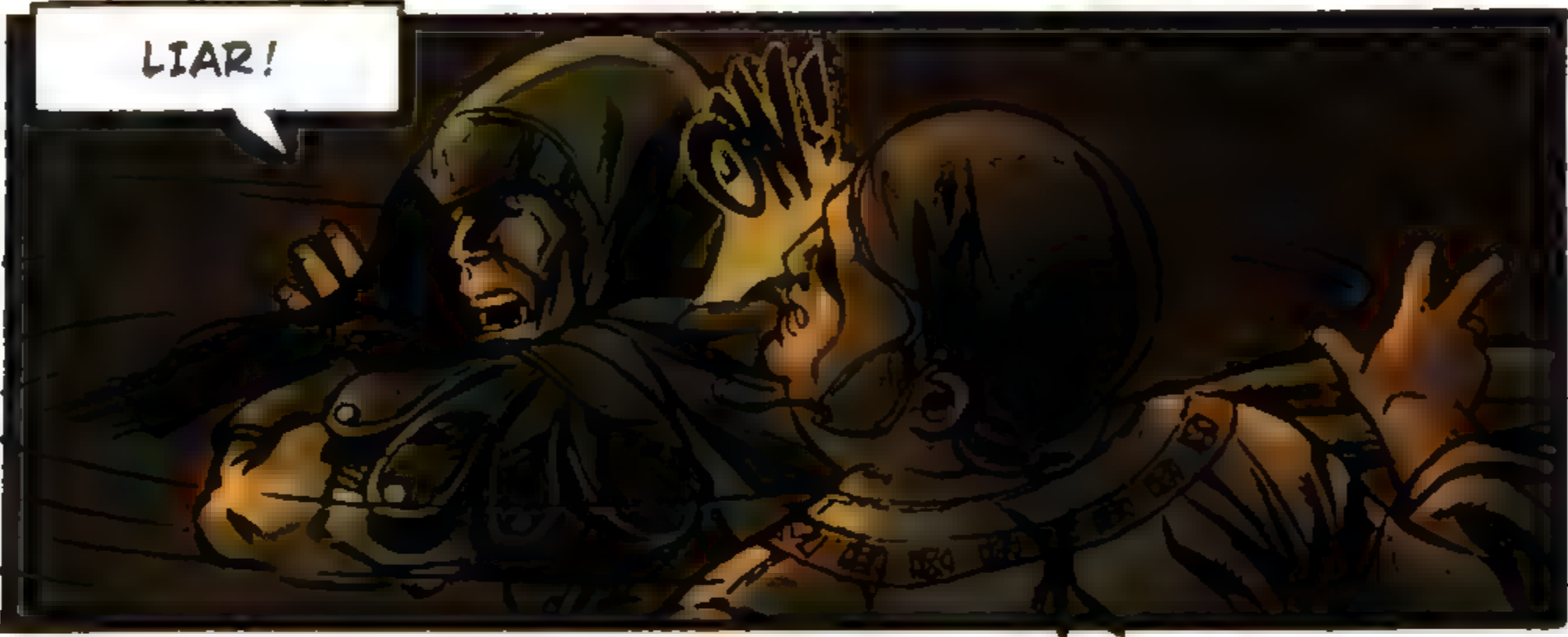


IT'S NOT MY FAULT! GALLIENUS FORCED US TO PROVIDE HIM WITH ANY INFORMATION WE HAD ON MATTERS THAT CONFLICTED WITH THE INTENTIONS OF THE EMPIRE!

WHO ARE YOUR COLLABORATORS?



I... I ACTED ALONE...



LIAR!



DON'T MAKE ME SLIT YOUR THROAT.

ALL RIGHT!

THE NAME OF MY CONTACT IN ROME IS CAIUS FULVUS VULTUR...

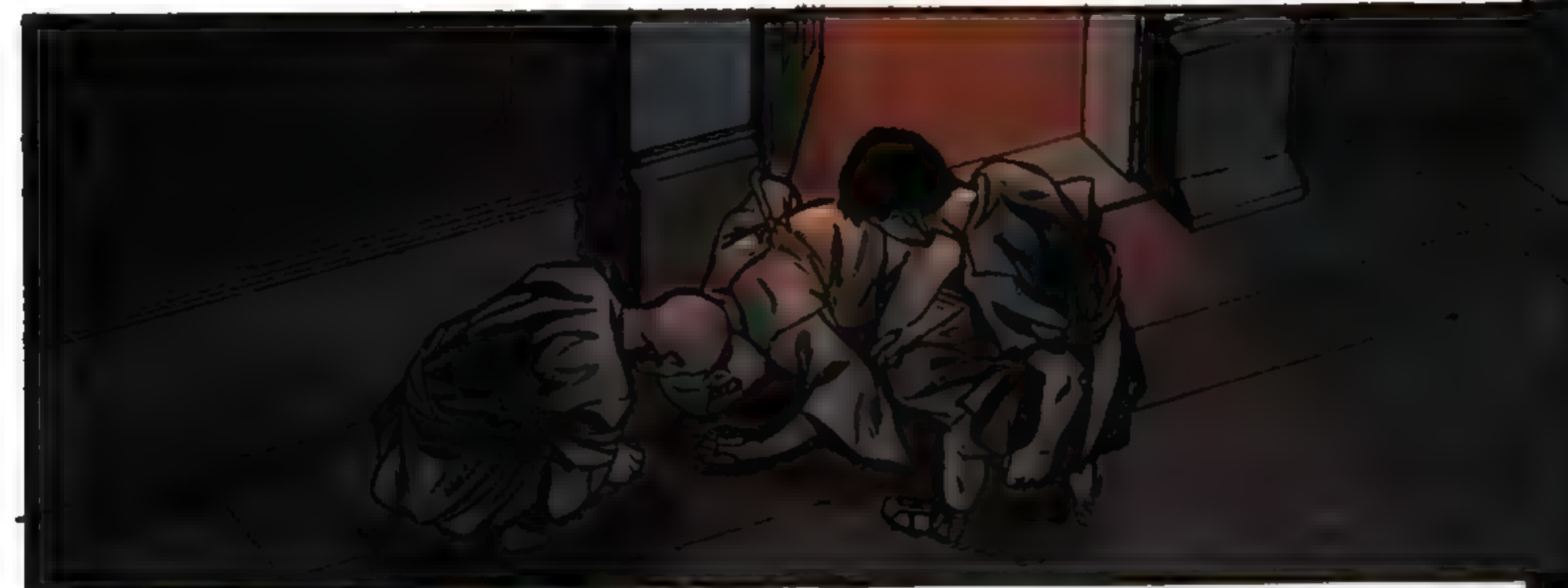
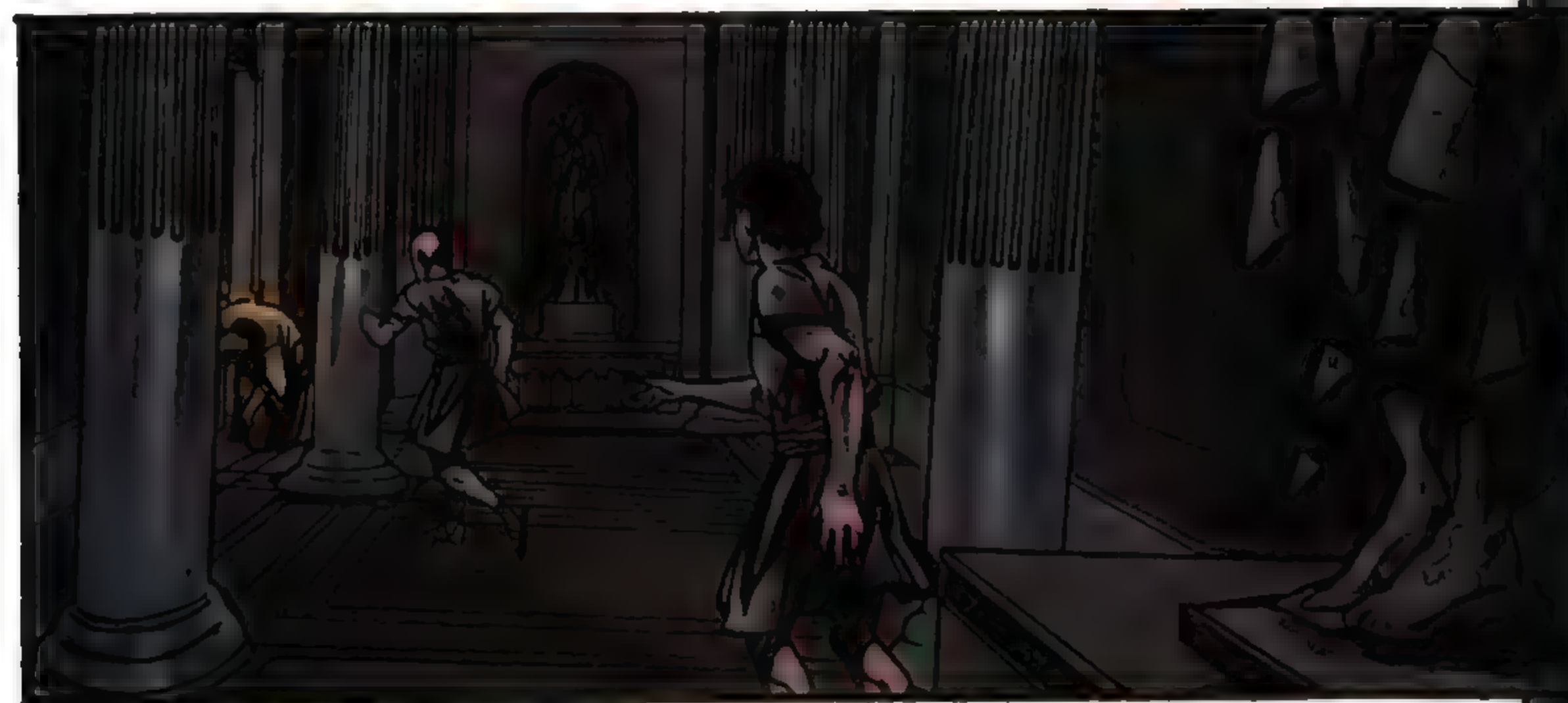
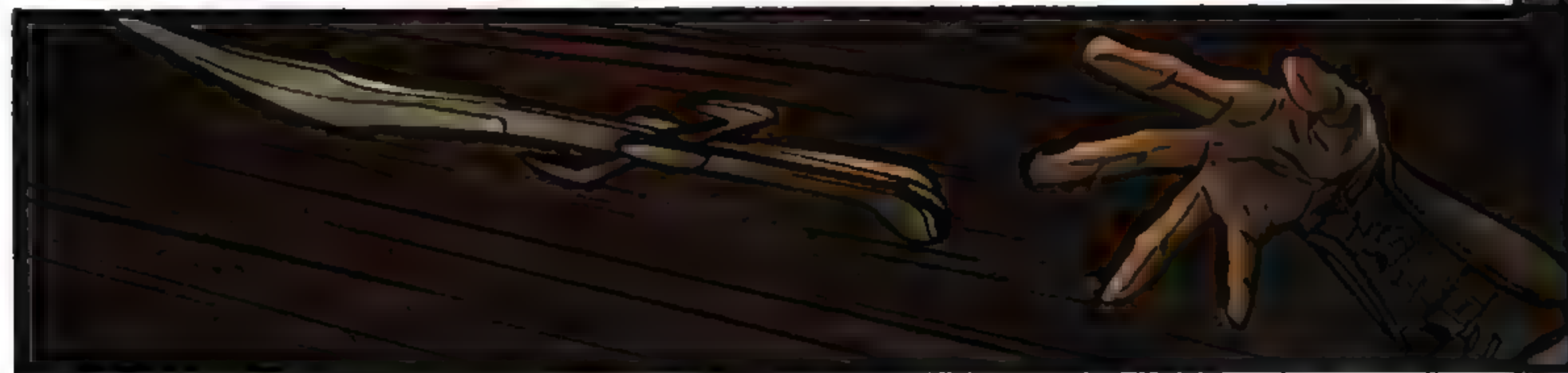
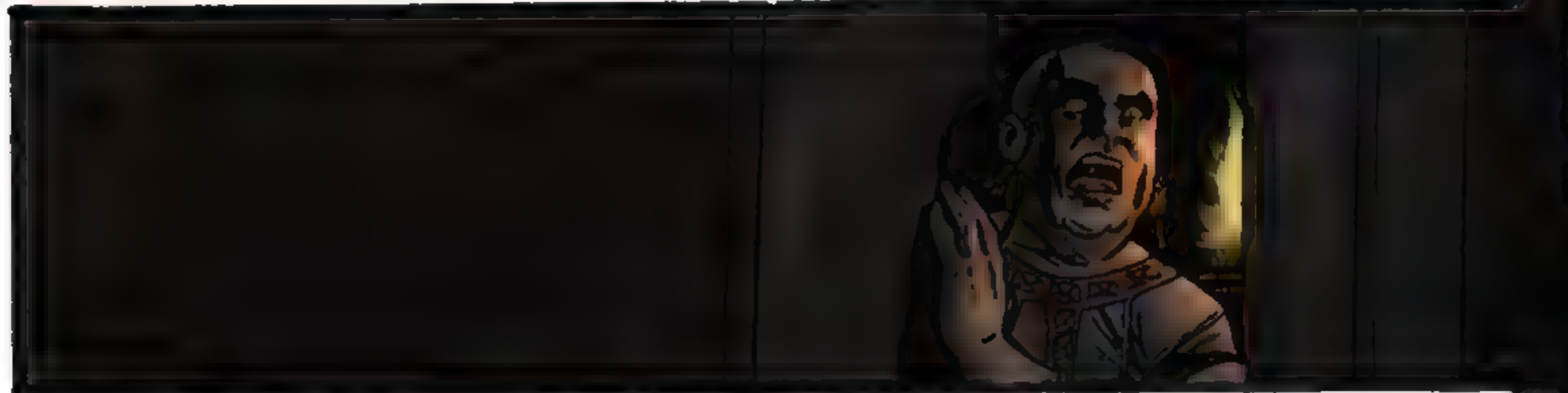
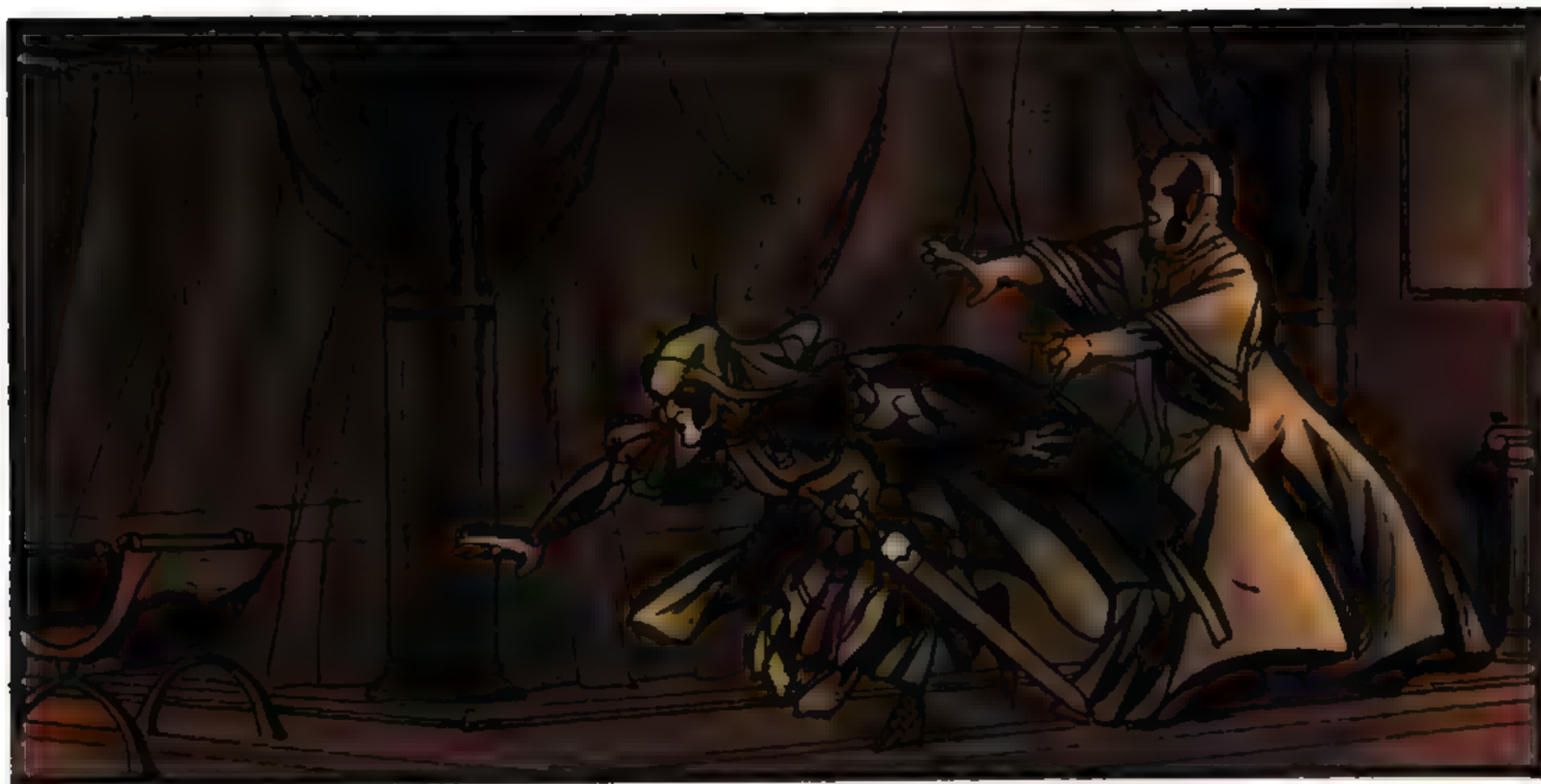


AAAAH!

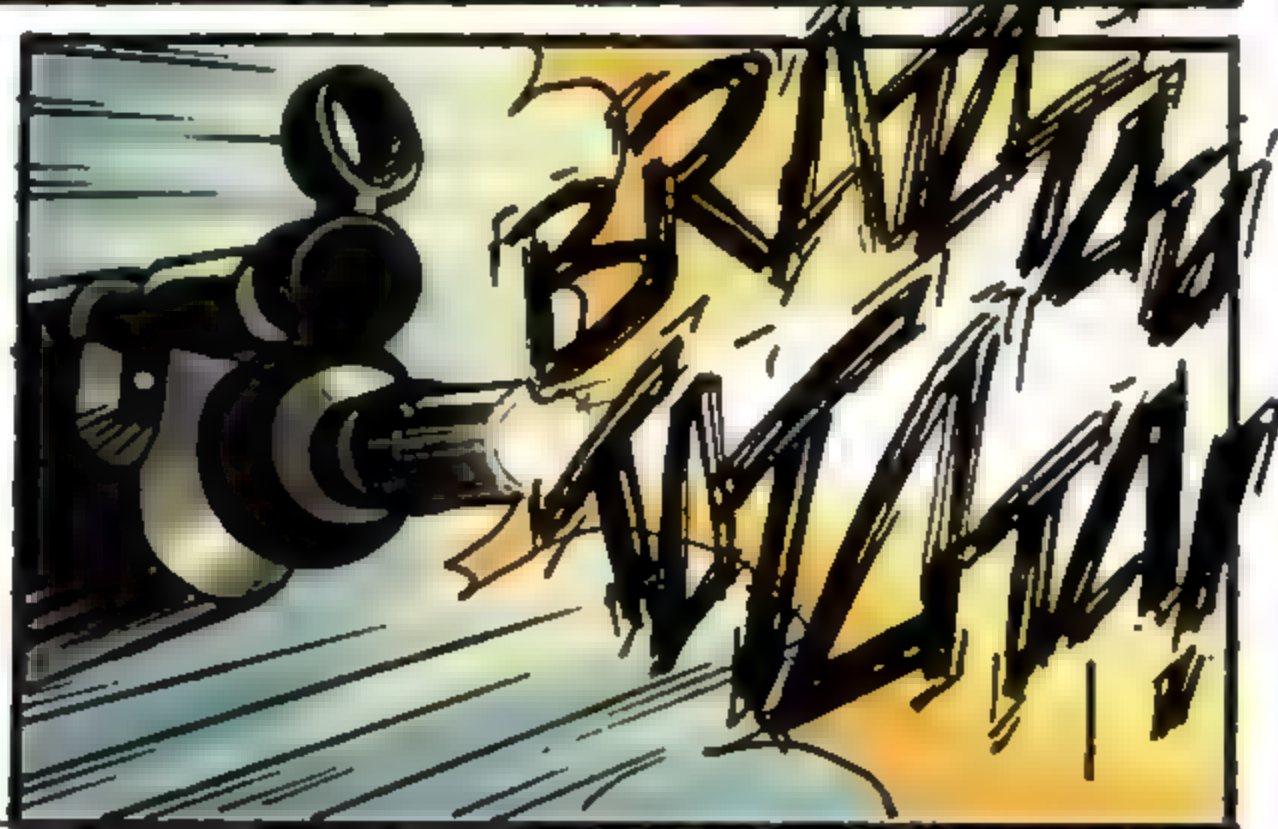
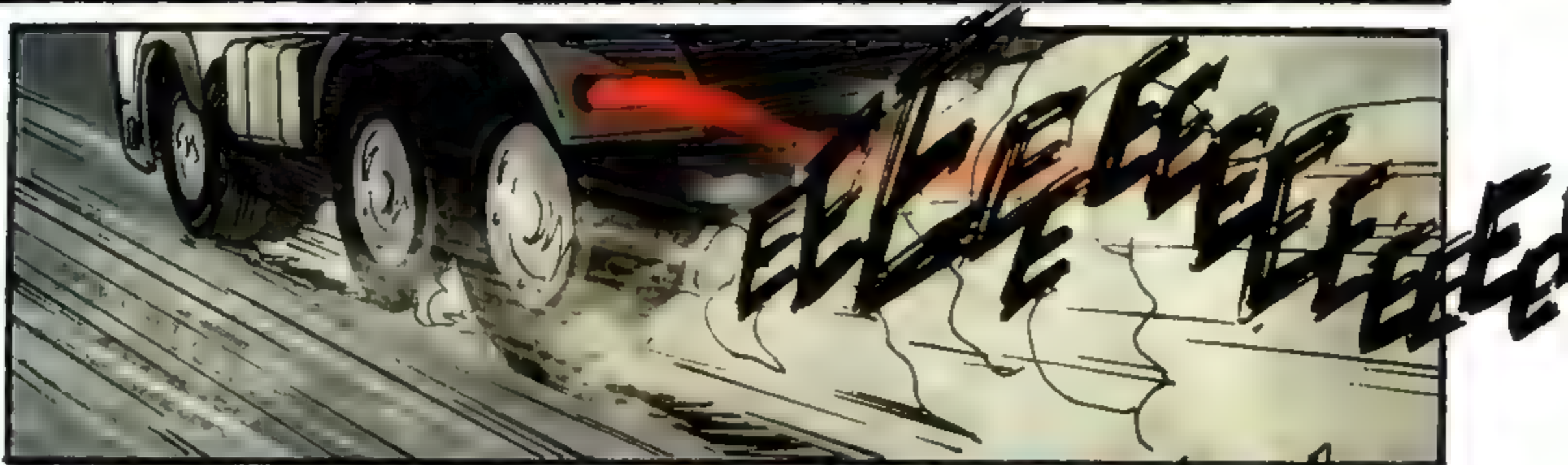
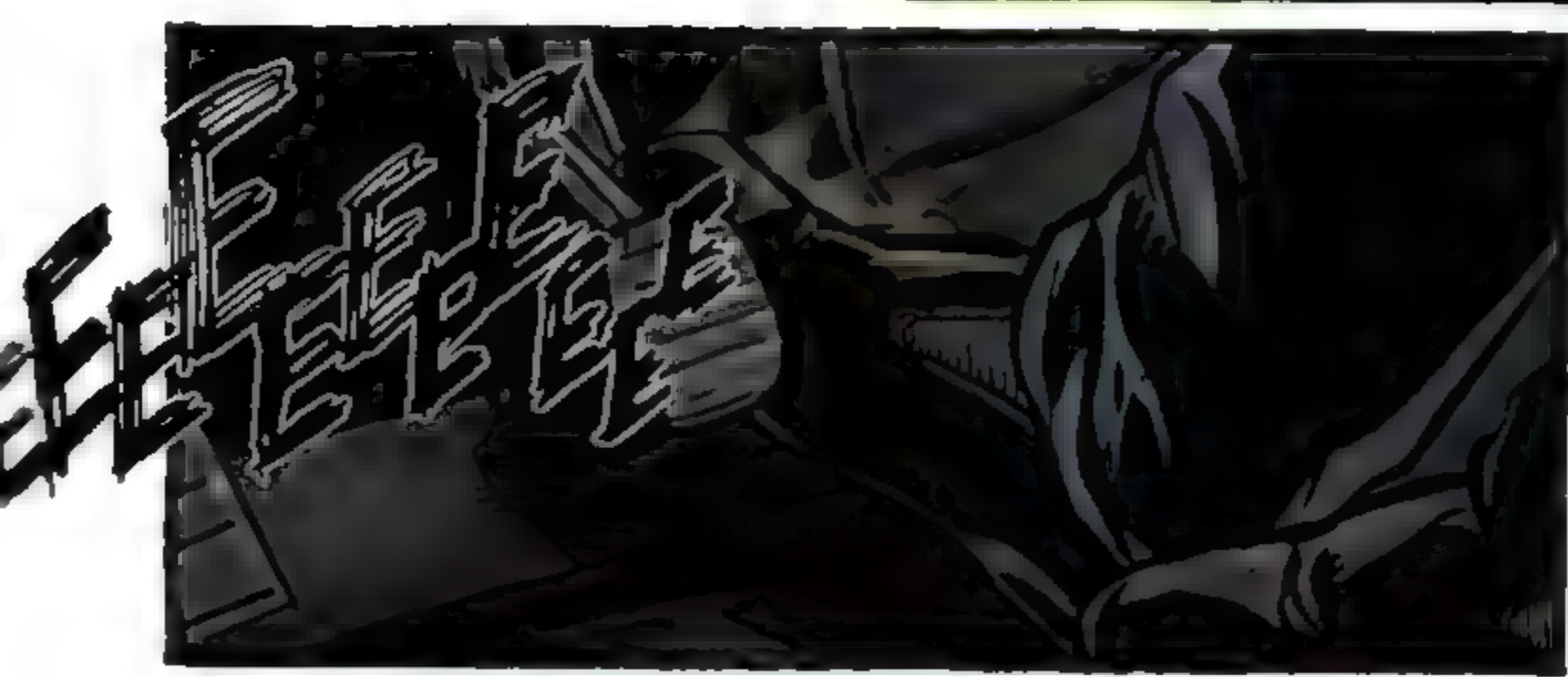
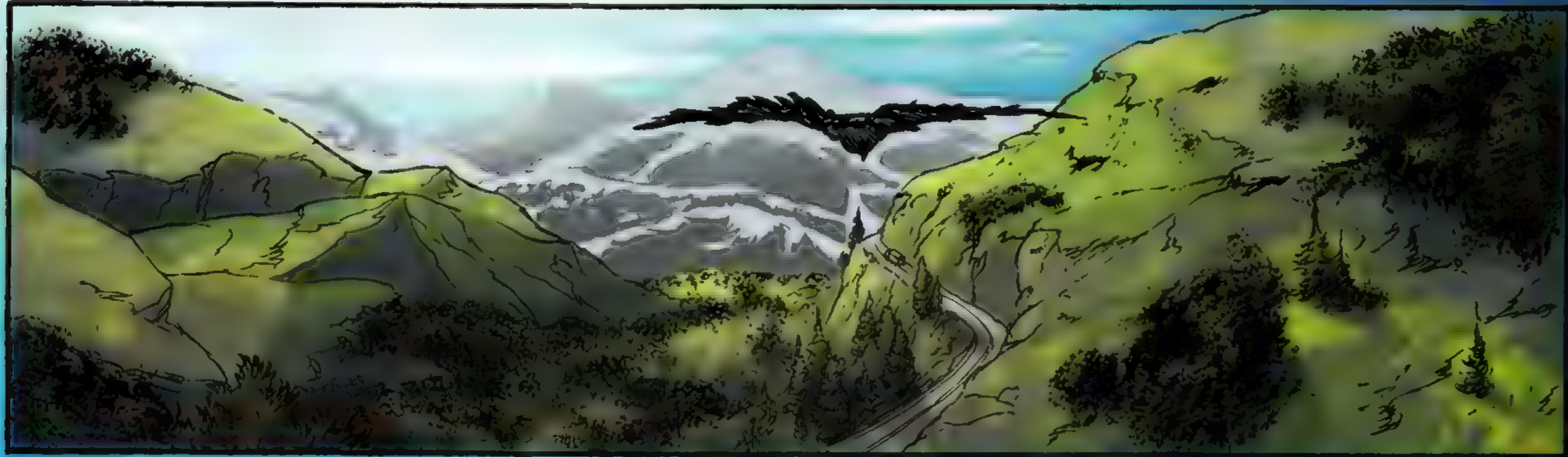


VULTUR?

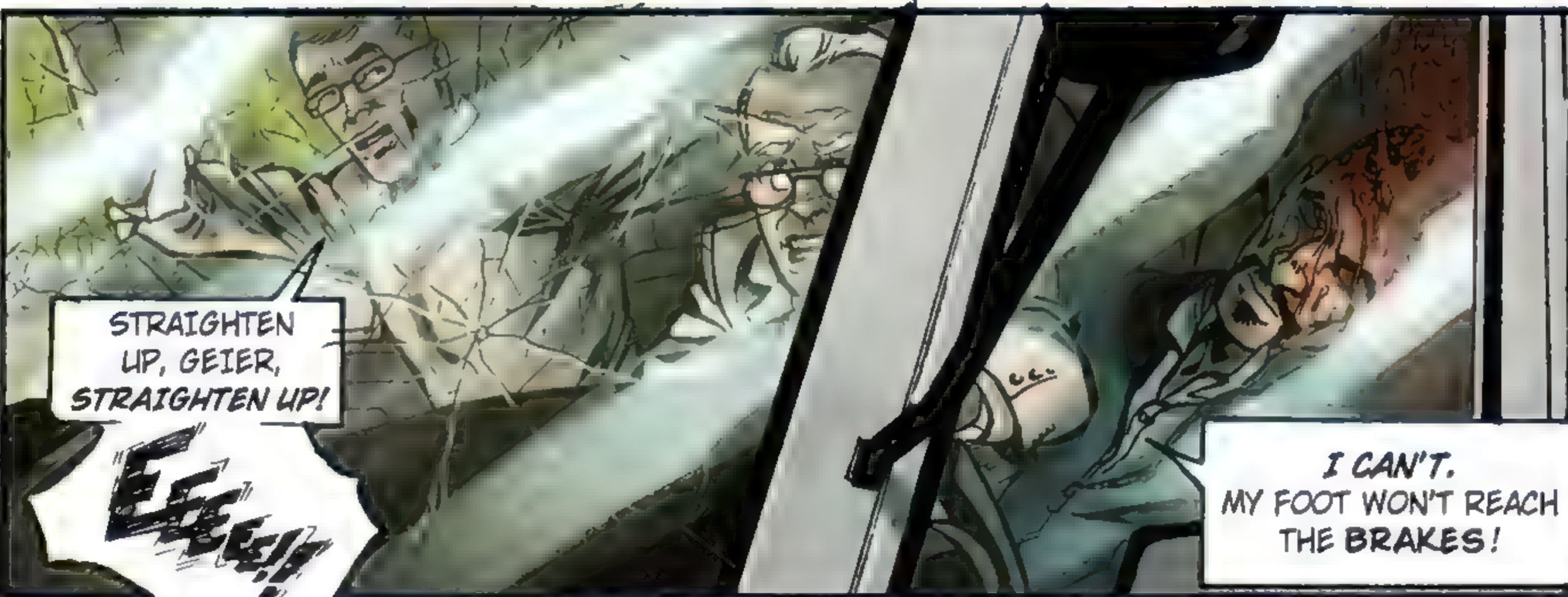
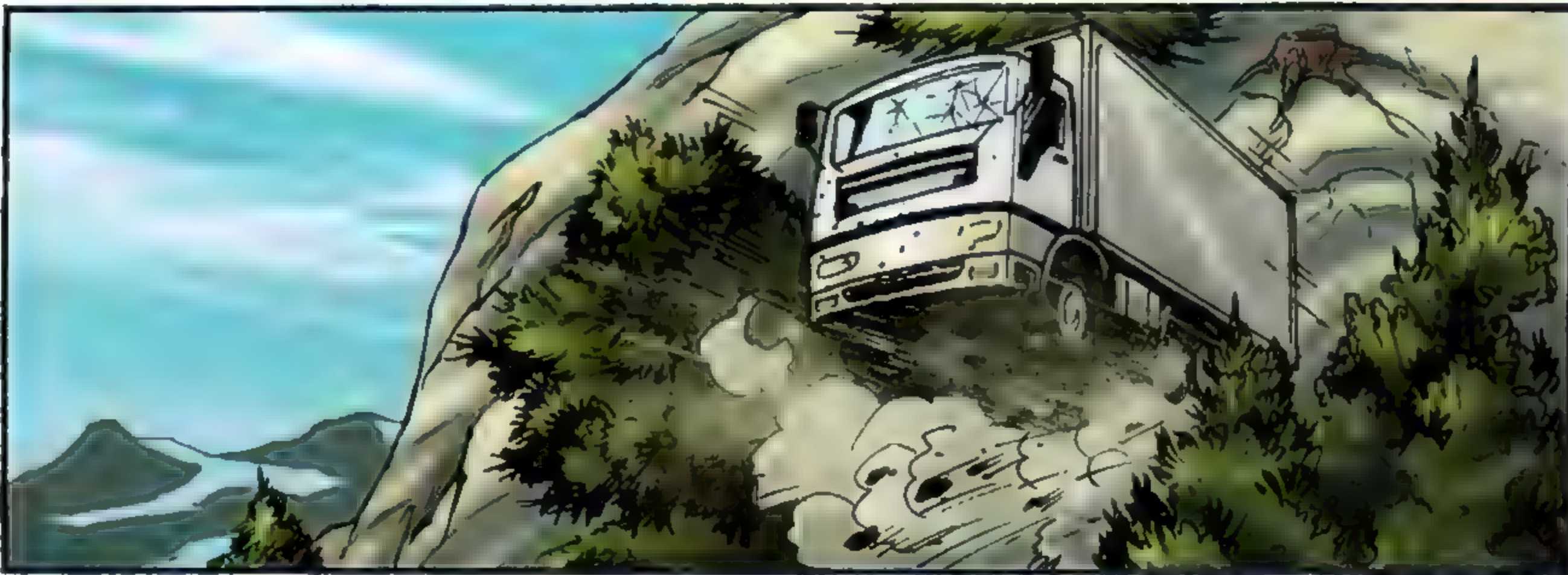
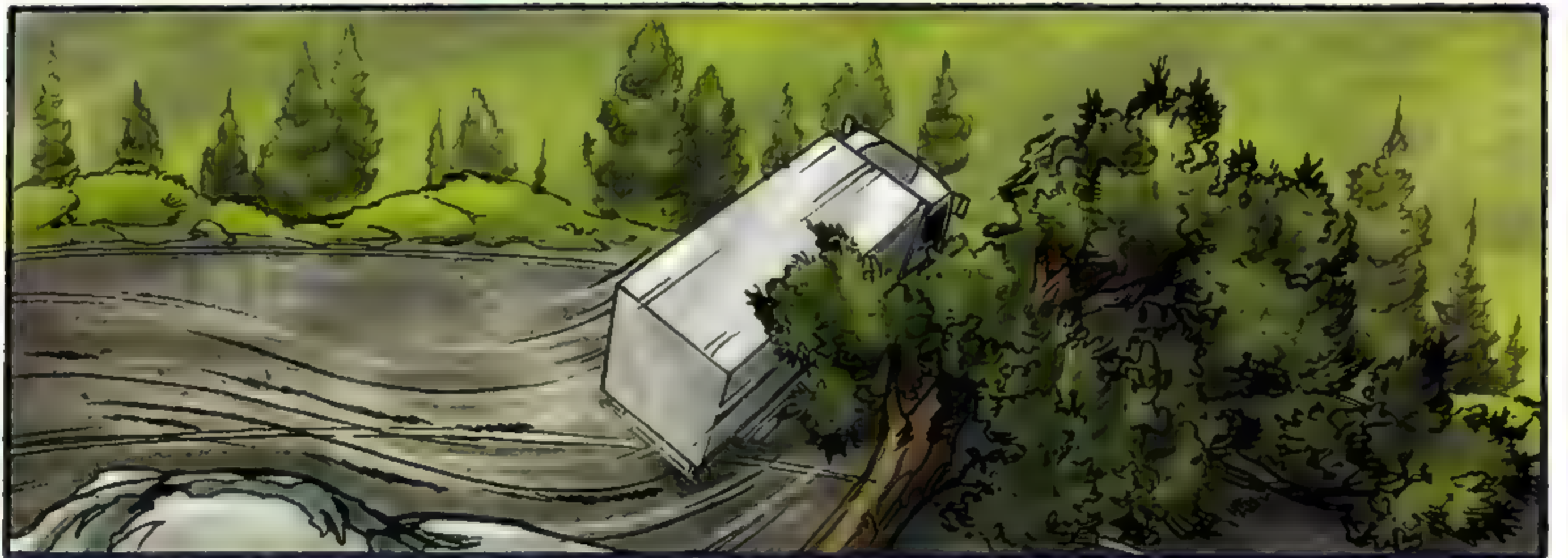
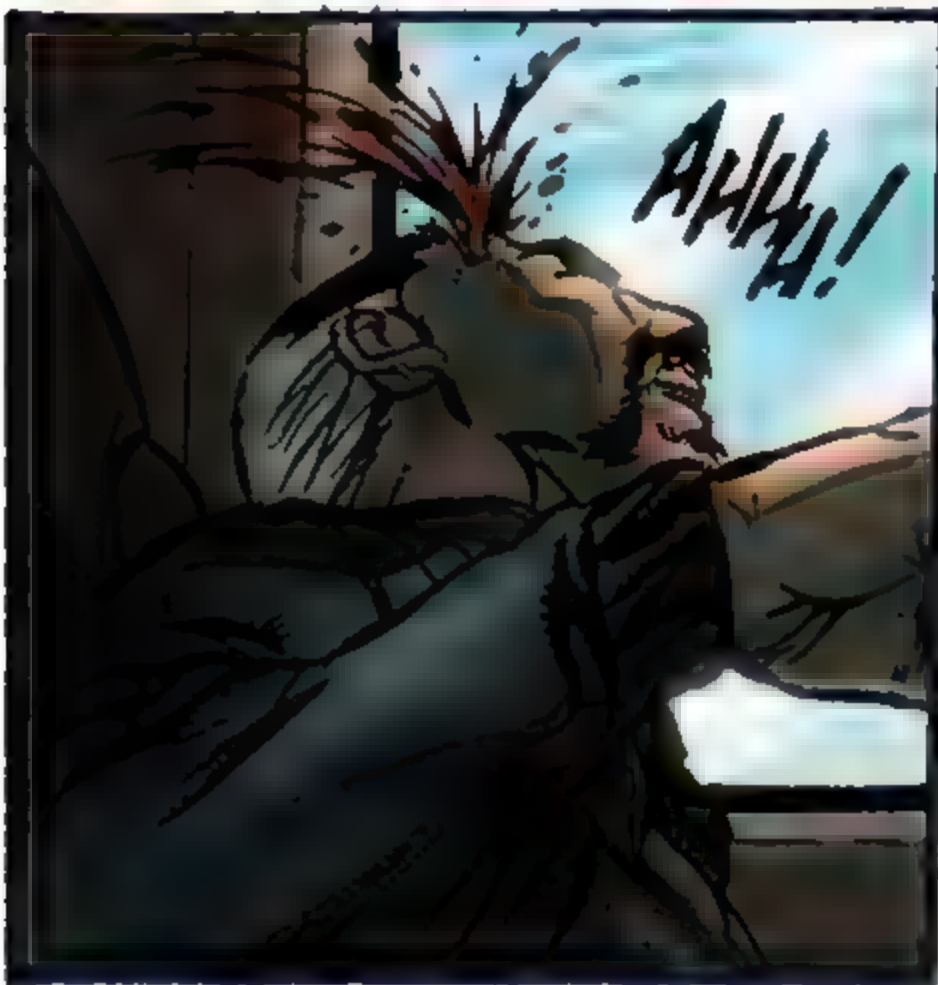
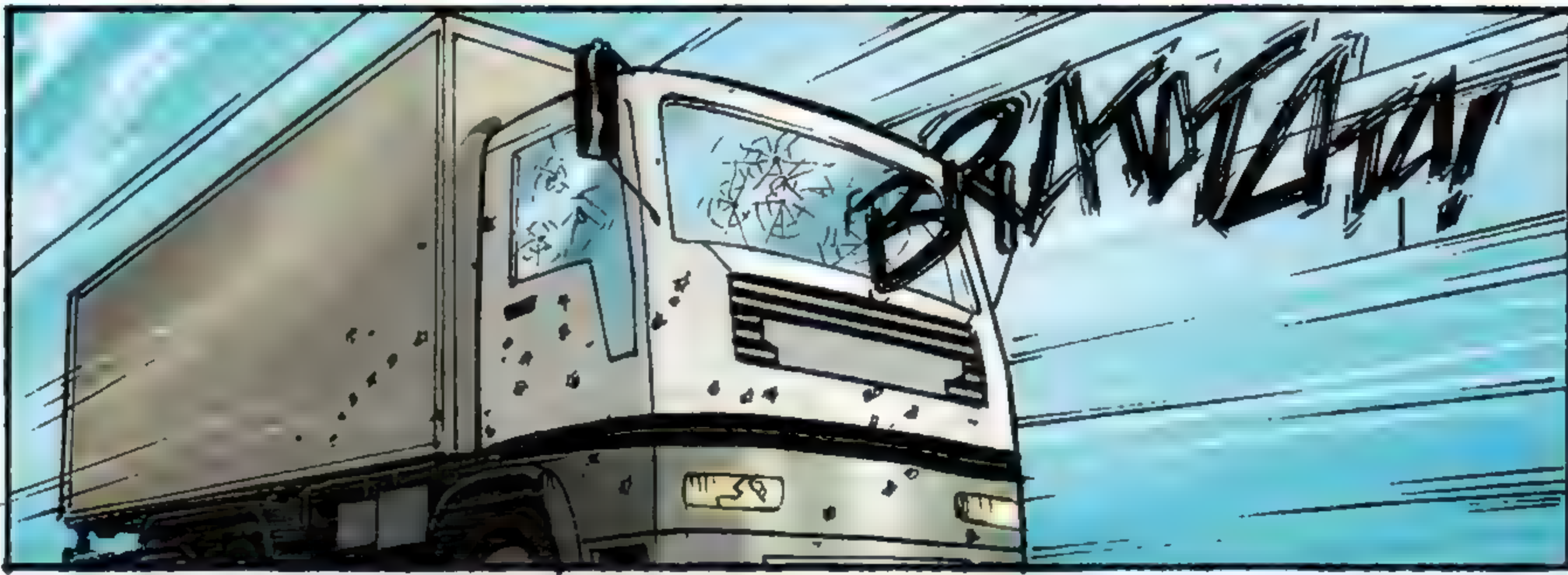




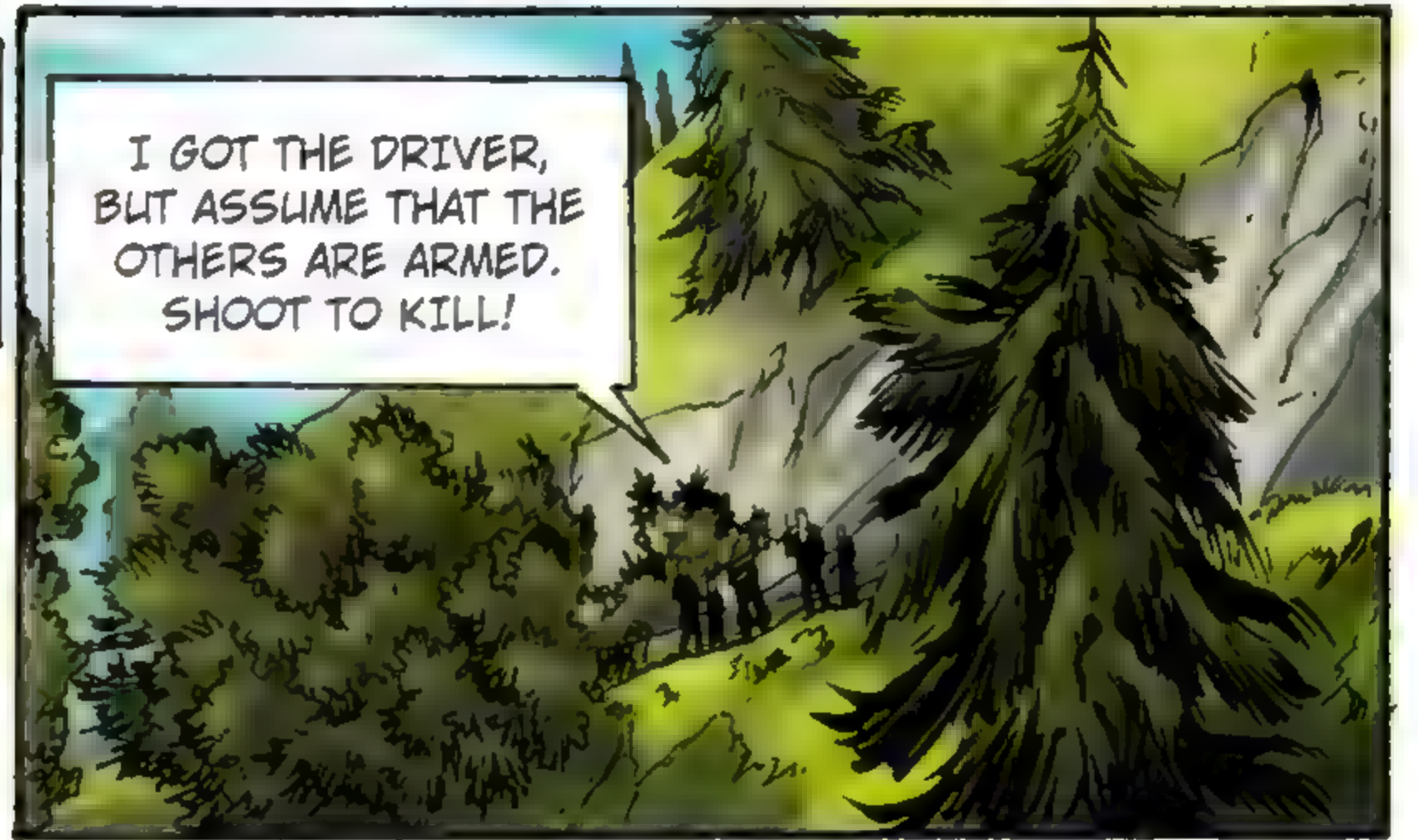




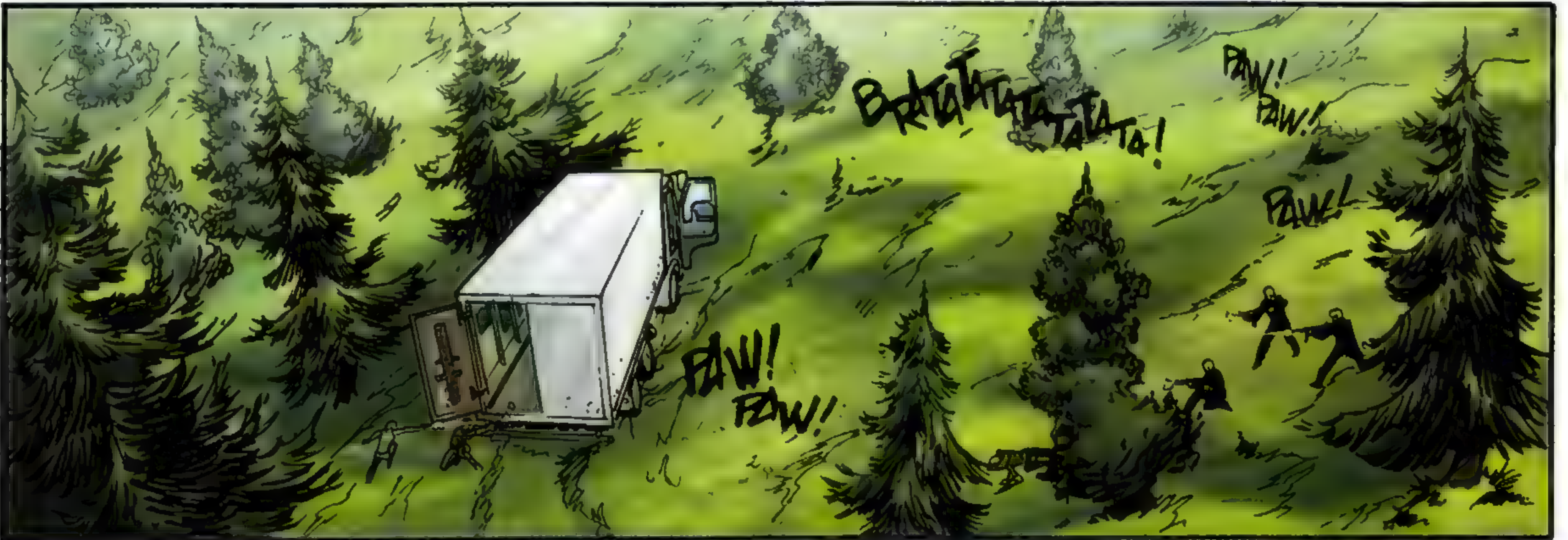
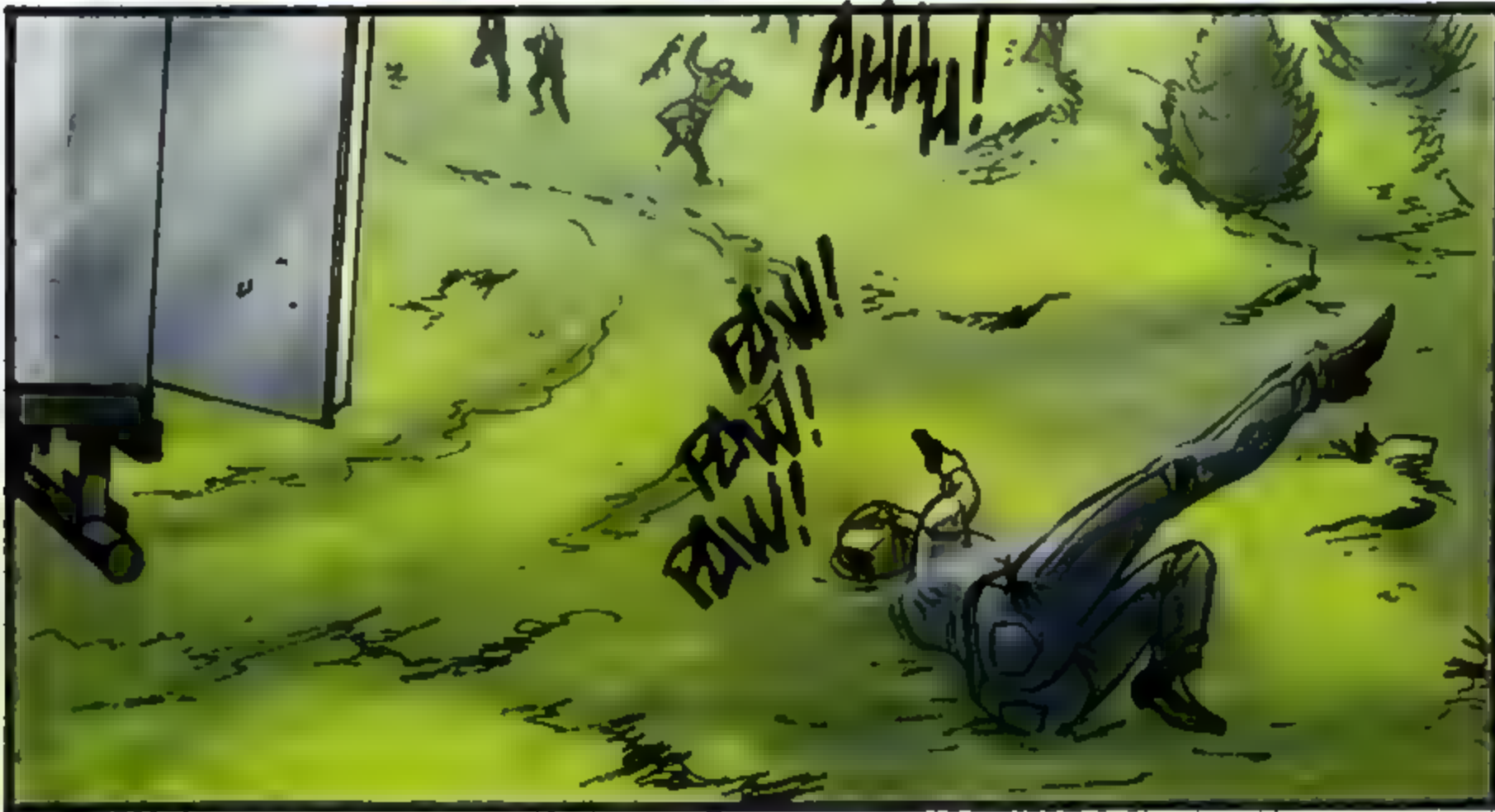




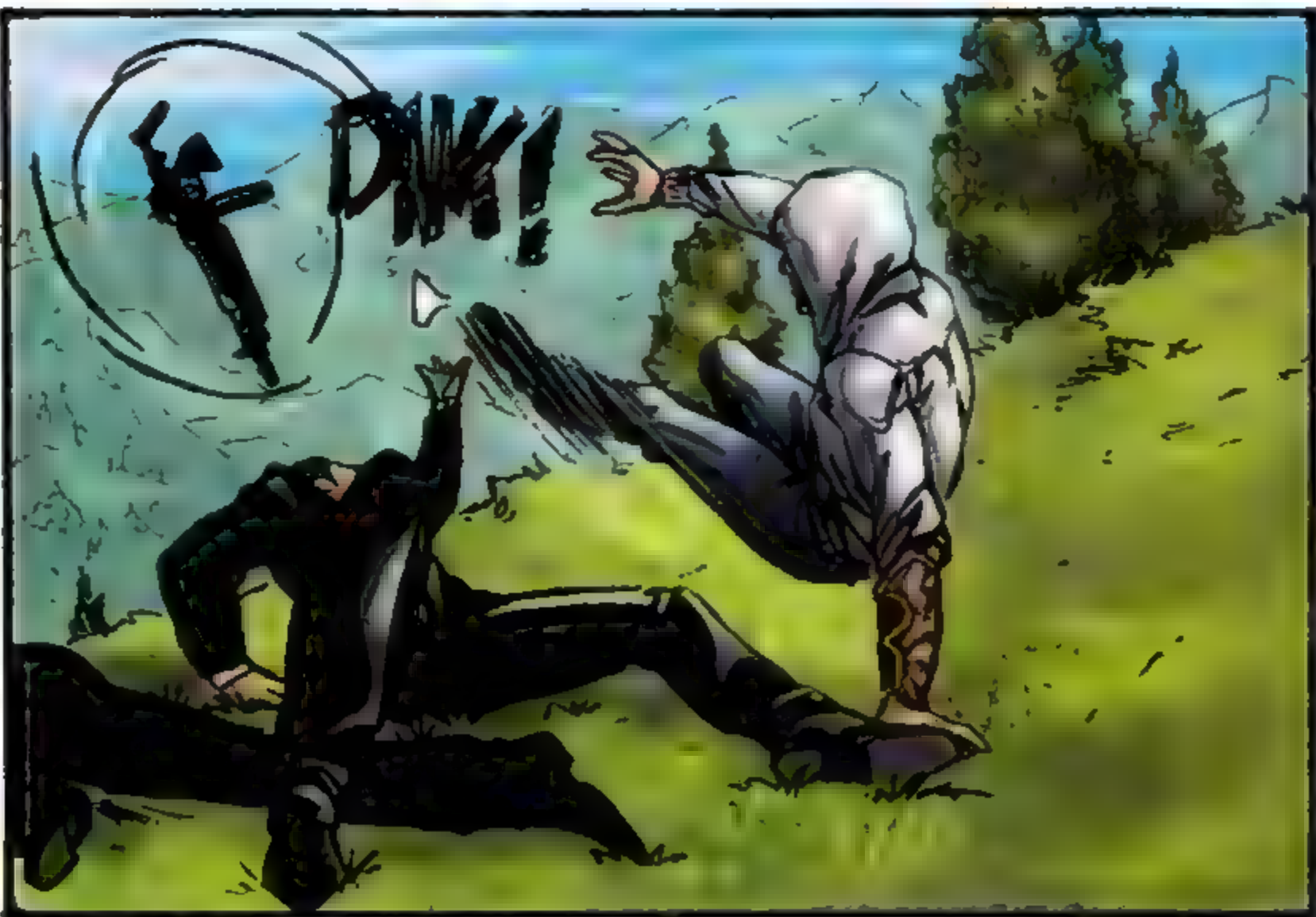
















GOOD WORK,  
DESMOND.

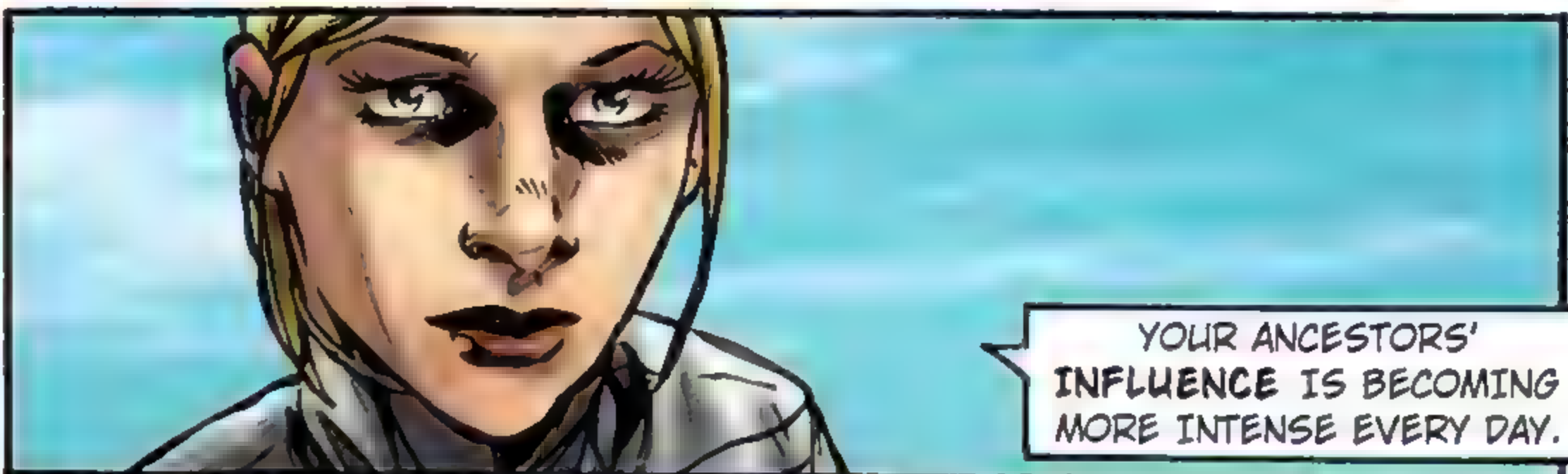


I DON'T KNOW IF  
YOU COULD REALLY  
CALL IT THAT, LUCY.

MAYBE...



BUT I'VE NOTICED  
YOUR SESSIONS  
IN THE ANIMUS ARE  
STARTING TO  
PAY OFF!



YOUR ANCESTORS'  
INFLUENCE IS BECOMING  
MORE INTENSE EVERY DAY.



THESE JERKS  
ARE TEMPLARS!



OBVIOUSLY!  
WHAT DID YOU  
THINK THEY WERE?  
KLINGONS?



THE REAL QUESTION  
IS, HOW DID  
THEY KNOW OUR  
WHEREABOUTS?

I HAVEN'T  
THE  
SLIGHTEST  
IDEA.



HEY, I MIGHT  
KNOW!

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GEIER?  
YOU'RE ALIVE!

YOU SCARED US,  
HERMAN! HOW DO  
YOU THINK THEY  
DID IT?

HELP ME GET OUT FROM  
UNDER THIS THING AND  
I'LL TELL YOU!



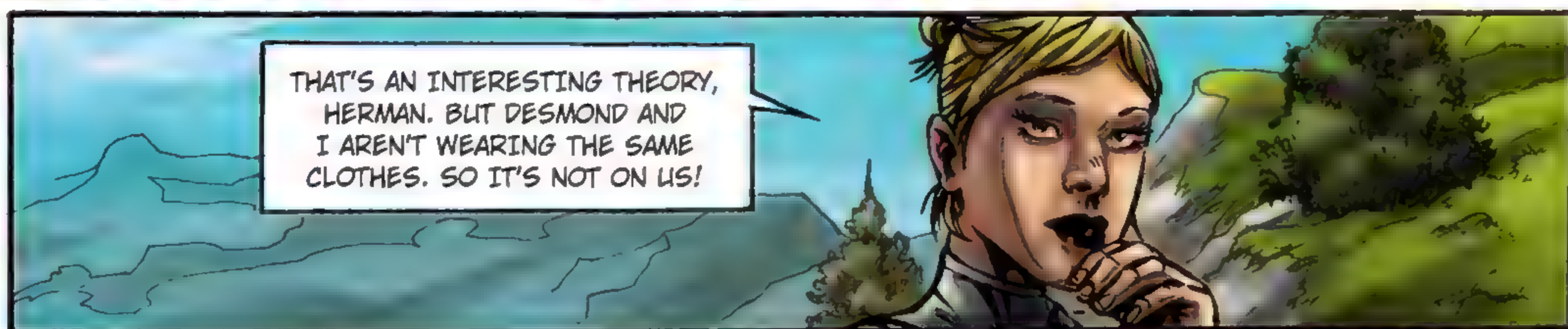
THANK  
YOU!



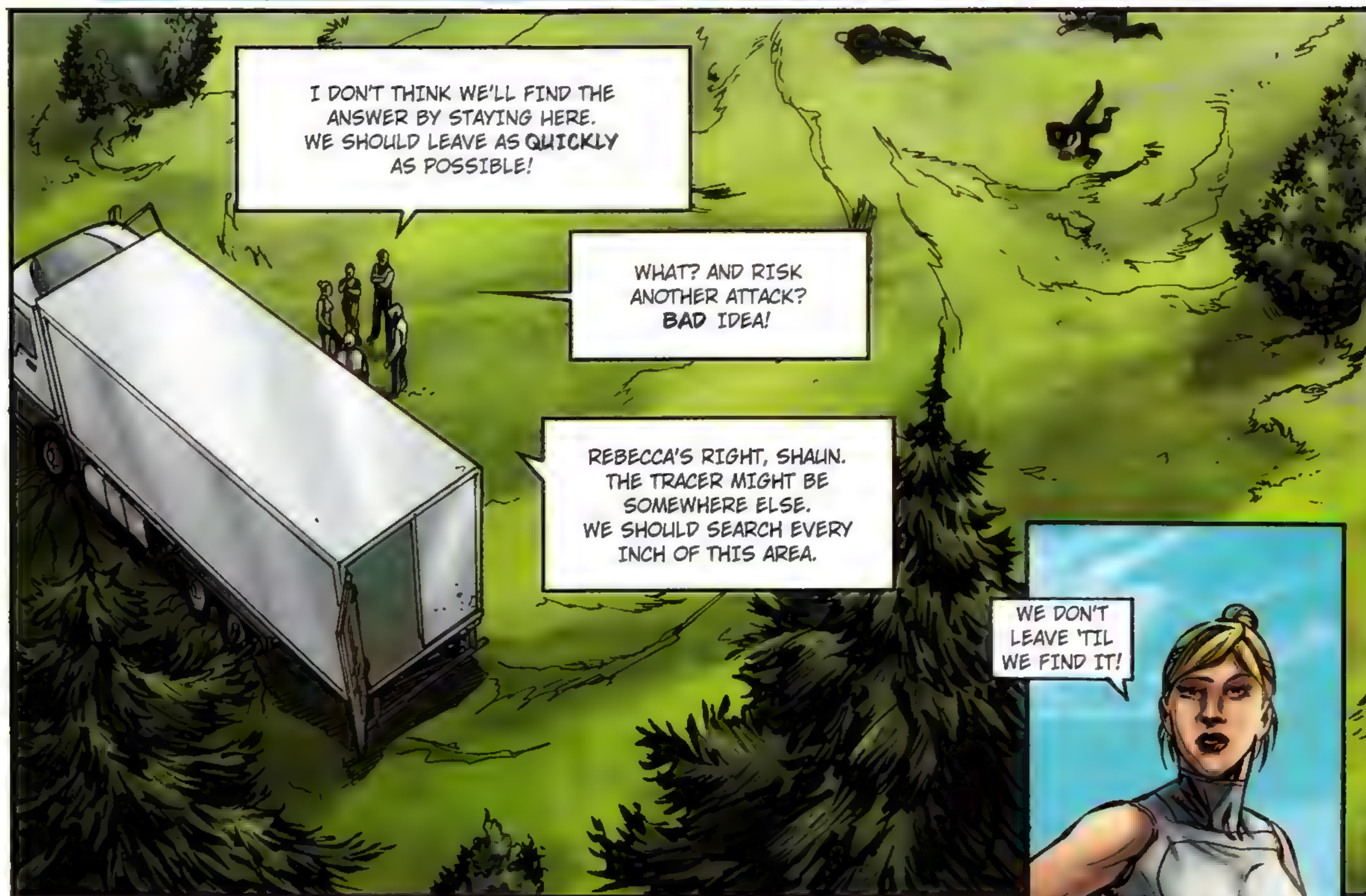
IN MY OPINION, THE MEN  
AT ABSTERGO SUCCEEDED  
IN PLACING A BUG OF  
SOME SORT ON YOU,  
YOUR CLOTHES, OR  
PERHAPS ON THE TRUCK.



THANKS TO THIS  
TRACER, THEY WERE  
ABLE TO FIND  
OUR POSITION.



THAT'S AN INTERESTING THEORY,  
HERMAN. BUT DESMOND AND  
I AREN'T WEARING THE SAME  
CLOTHES. SO IT'S NOT ON US!

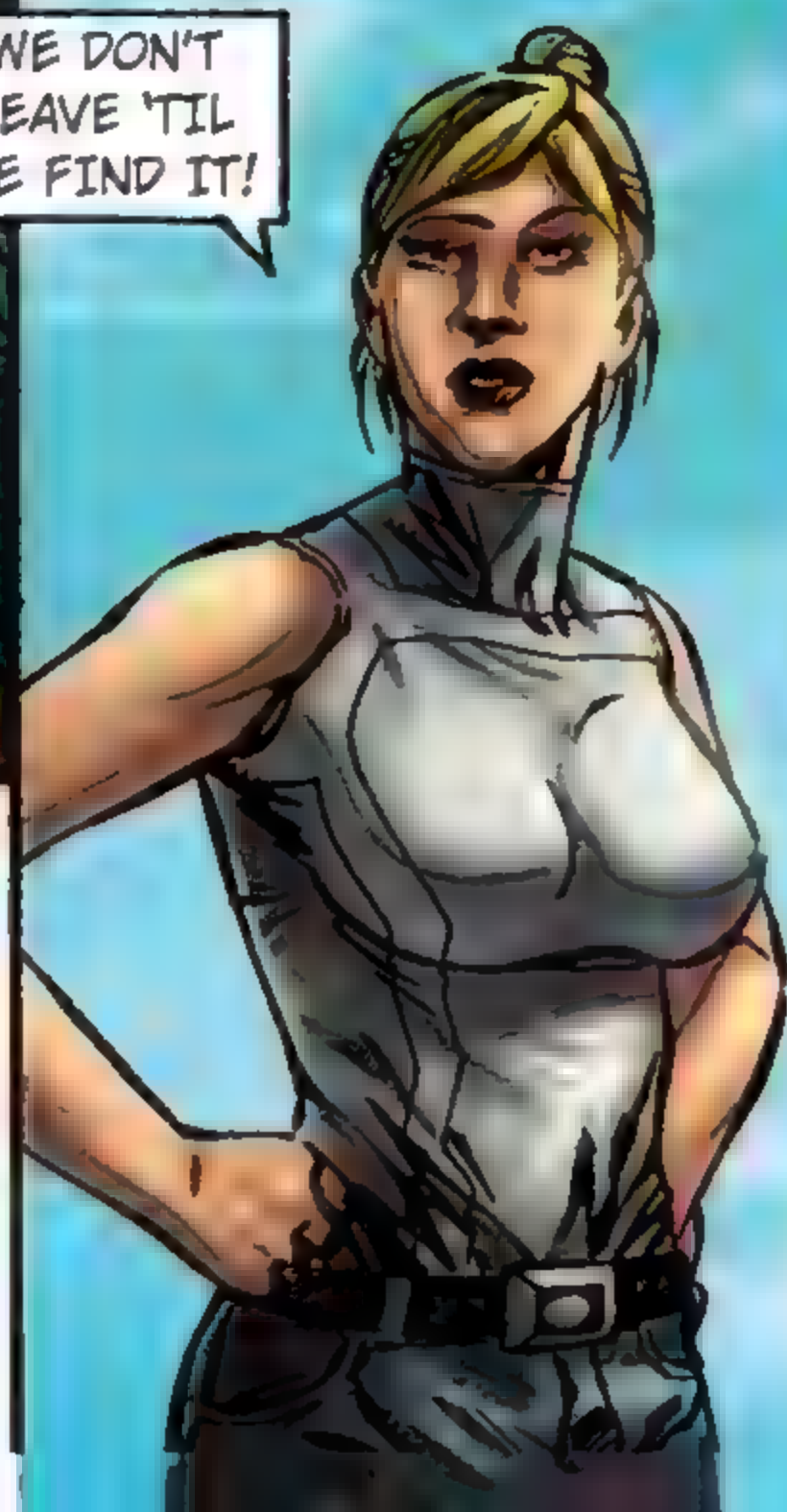


I DON'T THINK WE'LL FIND THE  
ANSWER BY STAYING HERE.  
WE SHOULD LEAVE AS QUICKLY  
AS POSSIBLE!

WHAT? AND RISK  
ANOTHER ATTACK?  
BAD IDEA!

REBECCA'S RIGHT, SHAIN.  
THE TRACER MIGHT BE  
SOMEWHERE ELSE.  
WE SHOULD SEARCH EVERY  
INCH OF THIS AREA.

WE DON'T  
LEAVE 'TIL  
WE FIND IT!





TWO HOURS LATER...

NOTHING!

NONE OF US  
HAVE FOUND A  
SINGLE THING!

WE'RE AT RISK OF  
ANOTHER ATTACK  
AND WE HAVE NO  
WAY OF KNOWING  
HOW OR WHEN!

WE WIPED OUT TWO OF THE GUYS  
AND GOT RID OF THE REST OF THE TEAM.  
PERHAPS THEIR RESOURCES ARE MORE  
**LIMITED** THAN WE FIRST THOUGHT!

YOU THINK ABOUT  
THAT FOR A BIT...

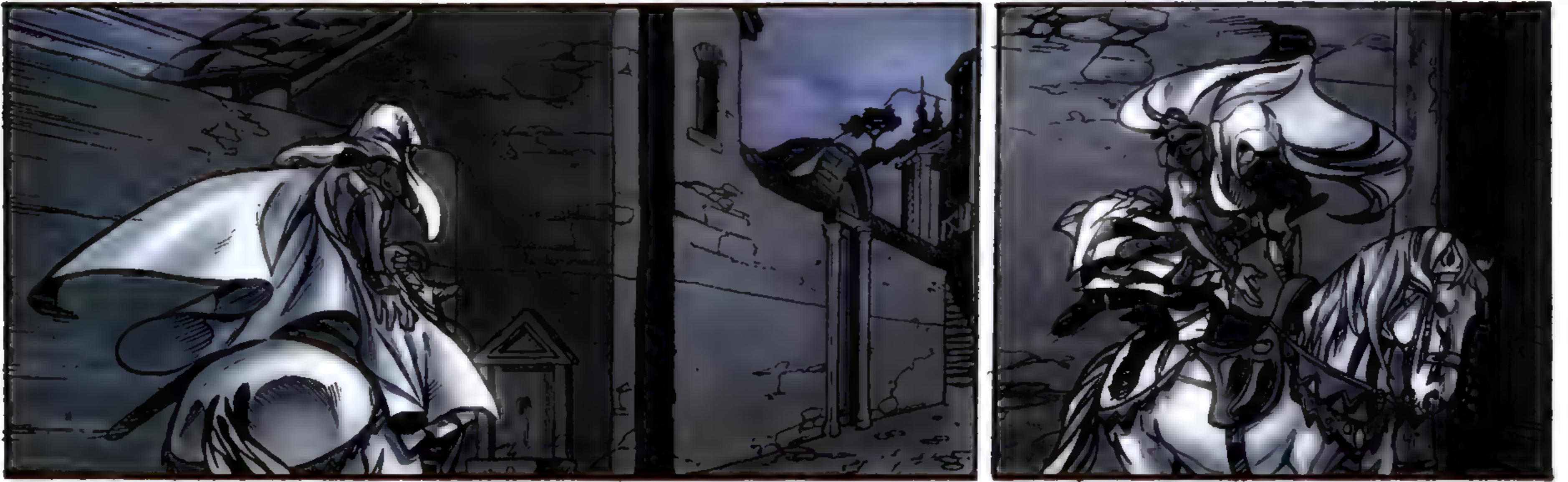
MEANWHILE--  
LUCY, WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK TO  
RE-ENTERING  
OUR LAST  
SESSION?

DESMOND? HELLO? IS THAT REALLY  
YOU? WHY THE CHANGE OF HEART?

THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE  
ANIMUS ARE **ENERGIZING!**  
I THINK I'M STARTING TO GET  
A TASTE FOR THEM.

GREAT... AFTER  
YOU THEN!









LUCIUS!  
WHERE ARE  
YOU?



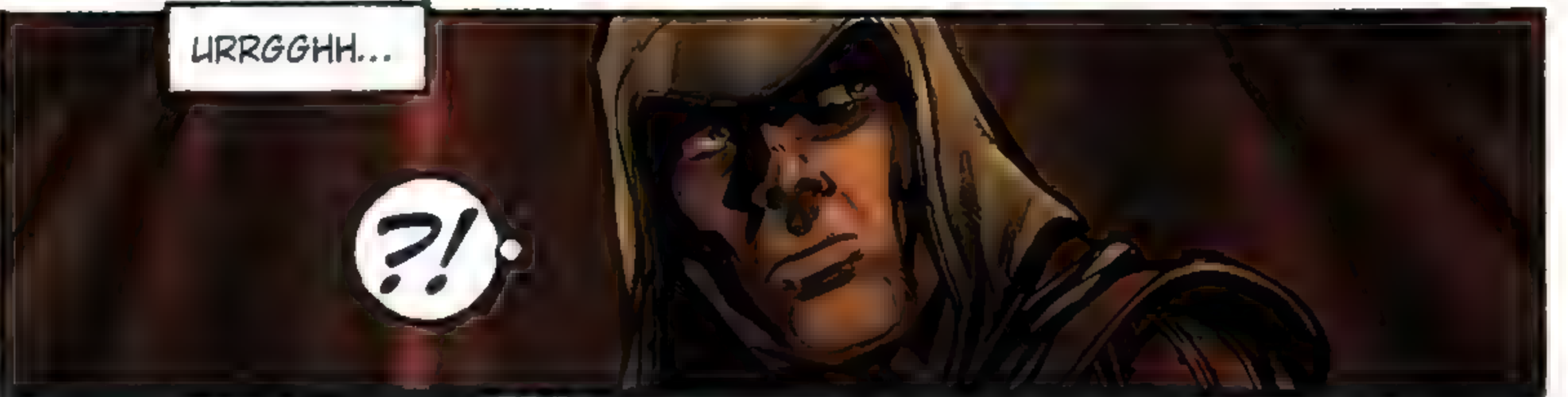
LUCIUS...



FATHER...  
NO...



NO, IT CAN'T BE...



URRGGHH...



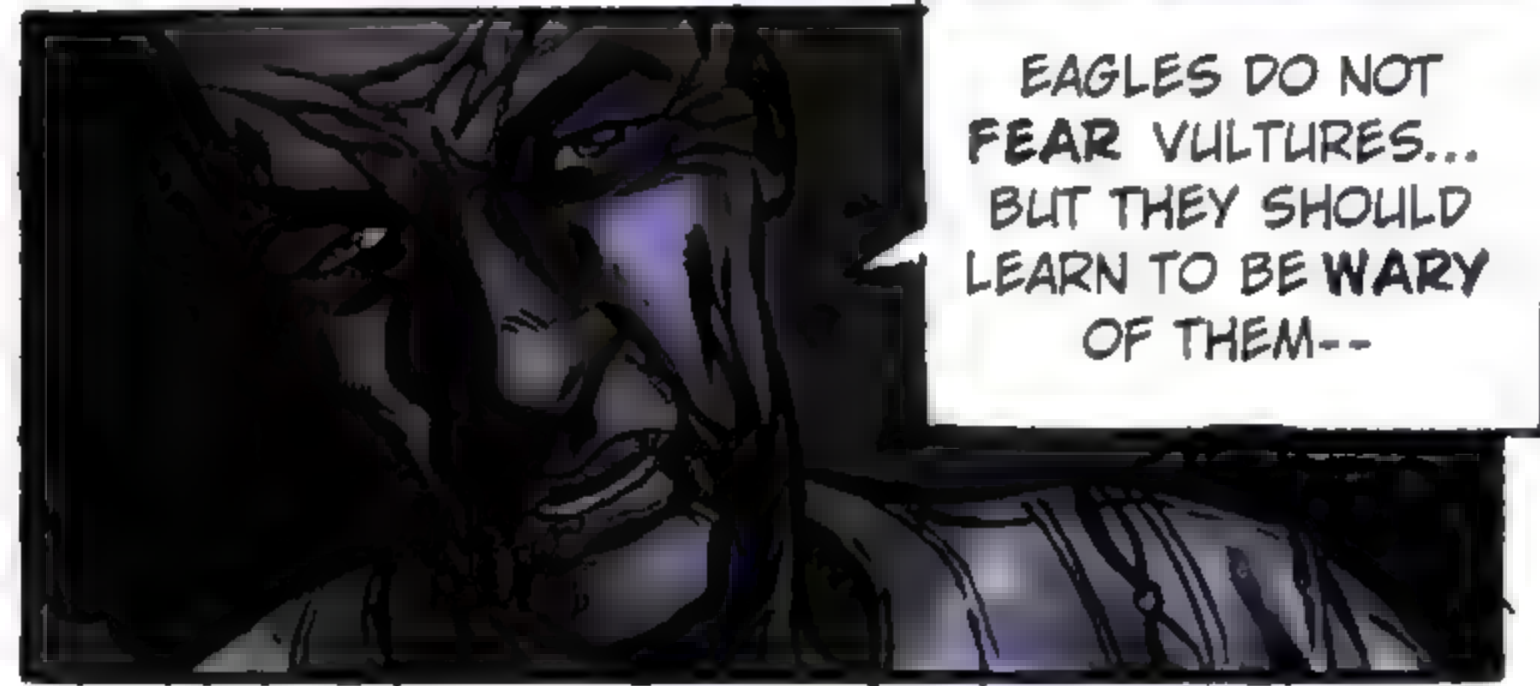
URGHH...

WEKE? IS  
THAT YOU?



WEKE, WHAT  
HAPPENED?  
WHO KILLED  
MY FATHER?

E...  
EAGLES...



EAGLES DO NOT  
FEAR VULTURES...  
BUT THEY SHOULD  
LEARN TO BE WARY  
OF THEM--



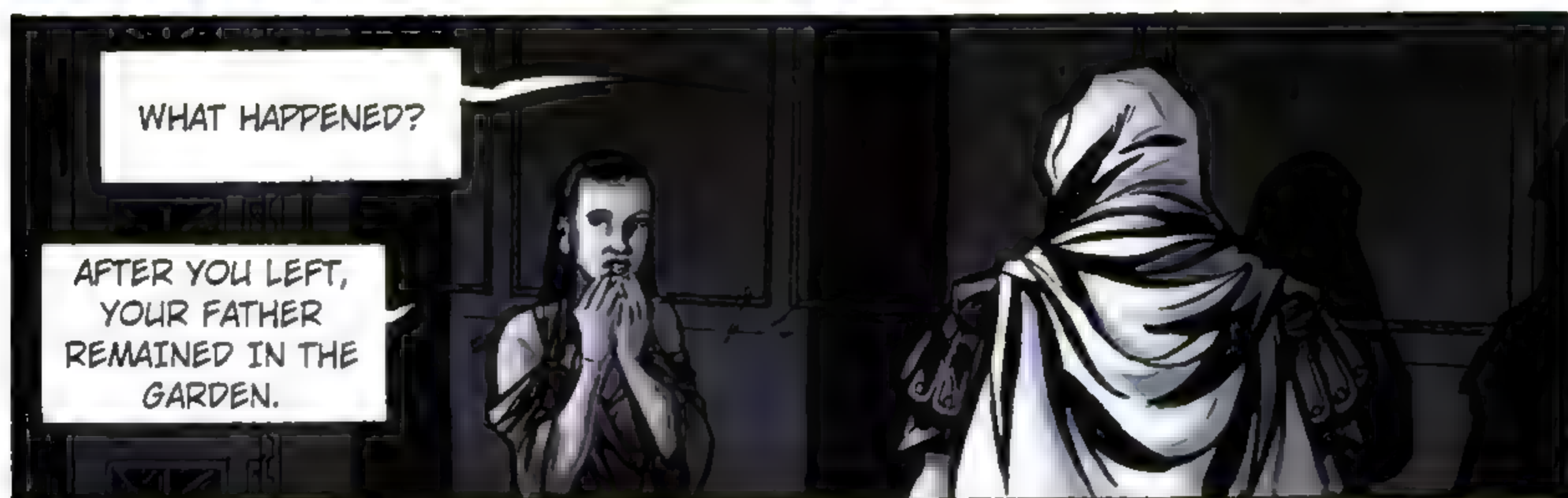


WEKE! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



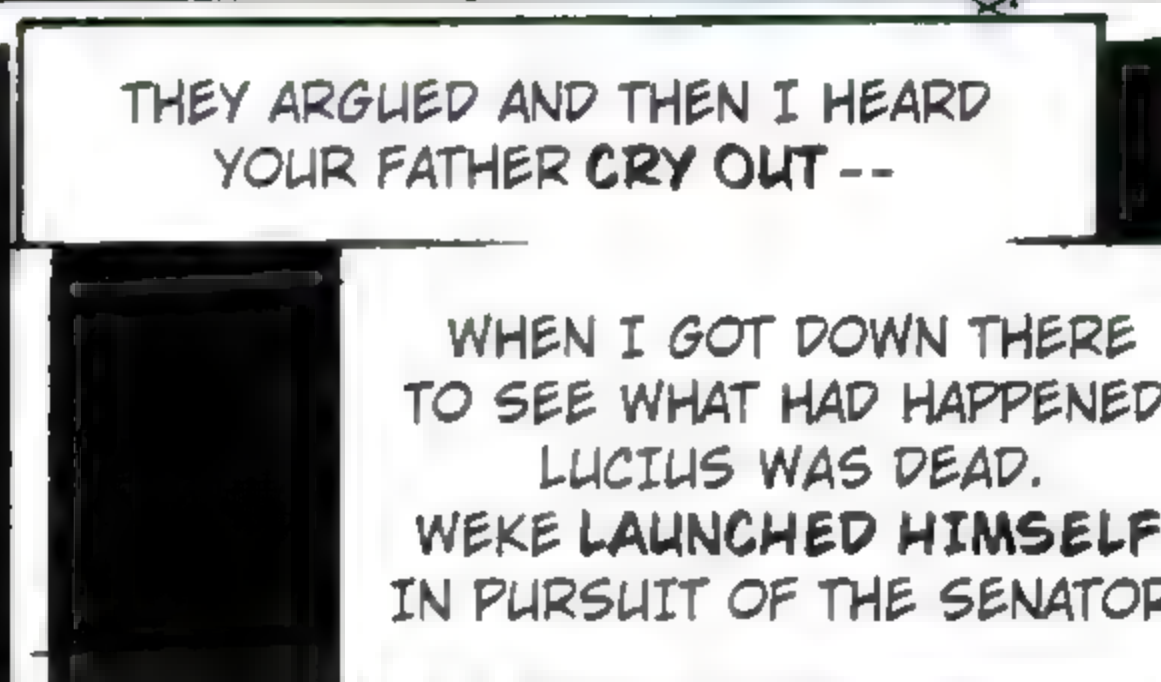
WEKE!

THE SENATOR HAS RUN AWAY, AQUILUS...



WHAT HAPPENED?

AFTER YOU LEFT, YOUR FATHER REMAINED IN THE GARDEN.



THEY ARGUED AND THEN I HEARD YOUR FATHER CRY OUT --

WHEN I GOT DOWN THERE TO SEE WHAT HAD HAPPENED, LUCIUS WAS DEAD. WEKE LAUNCHED HIMSELF IN PURSUIT OF THE SENATOR.



"NOT LONG AFTER, I HEARD SENATOR VULTUR LEAVE HIS ROOM AND REJOIN LUCIUS.

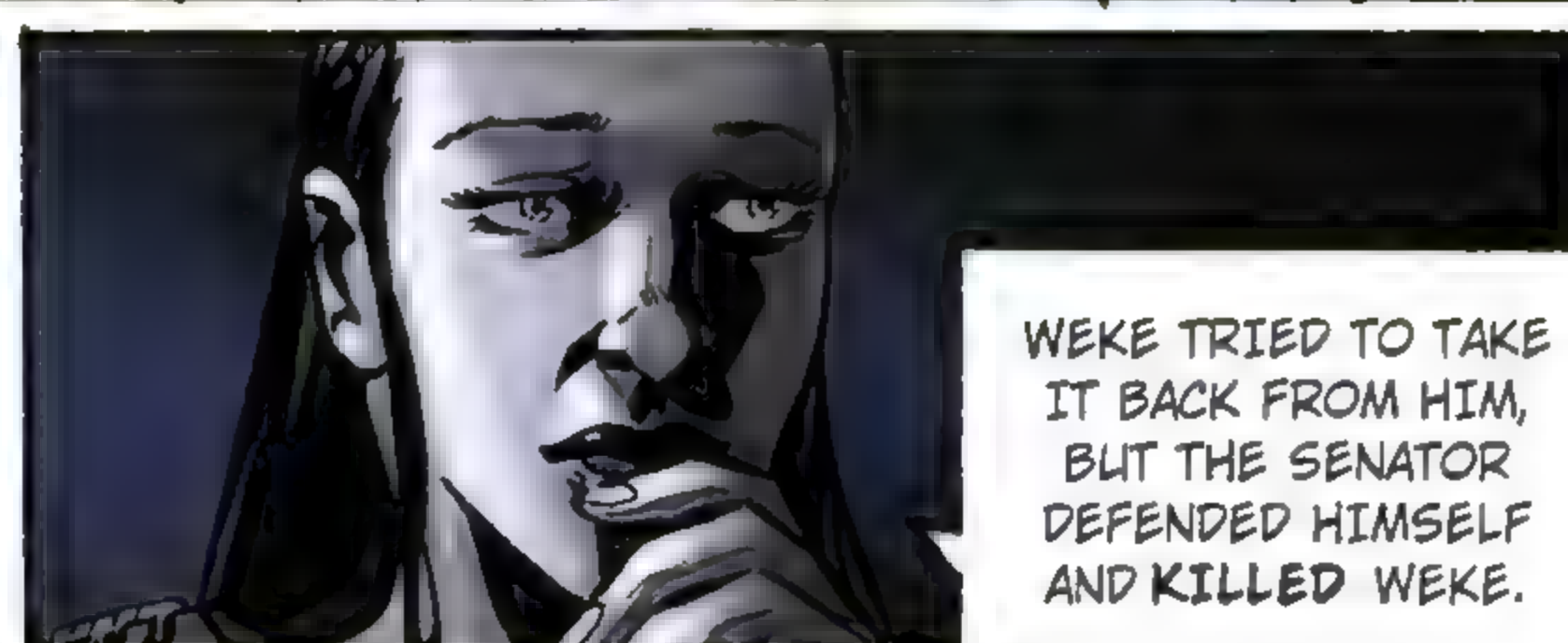


THE SENATOR? DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY WERE ARGUING OVER?

IT WASN'T VERY CLEAR. BUT APPARENTLY, THE SENATOR DESIRED AN OBJECT THAT YOUR FATHER REFUSED TO HAND OVER TO HIM.

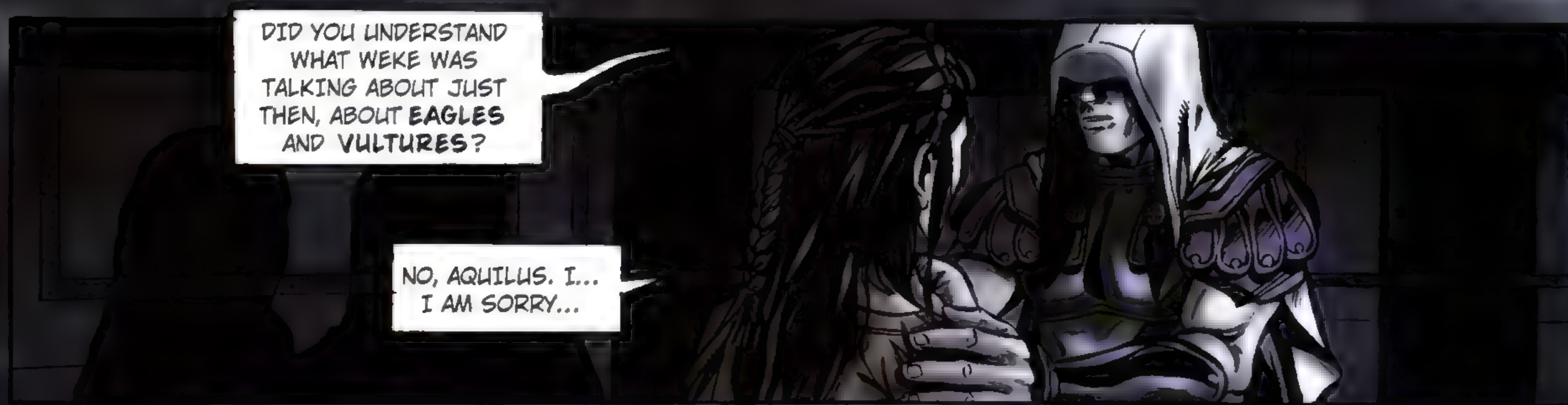


DO YOU KNOW WHAT BECAME OF THIS OBJECT?



WEKE TRIED TO TAKE IT BACK FROM HIM, BUT THE SENATOR DEFENDED HIMSELF AND KILLED WEKE.



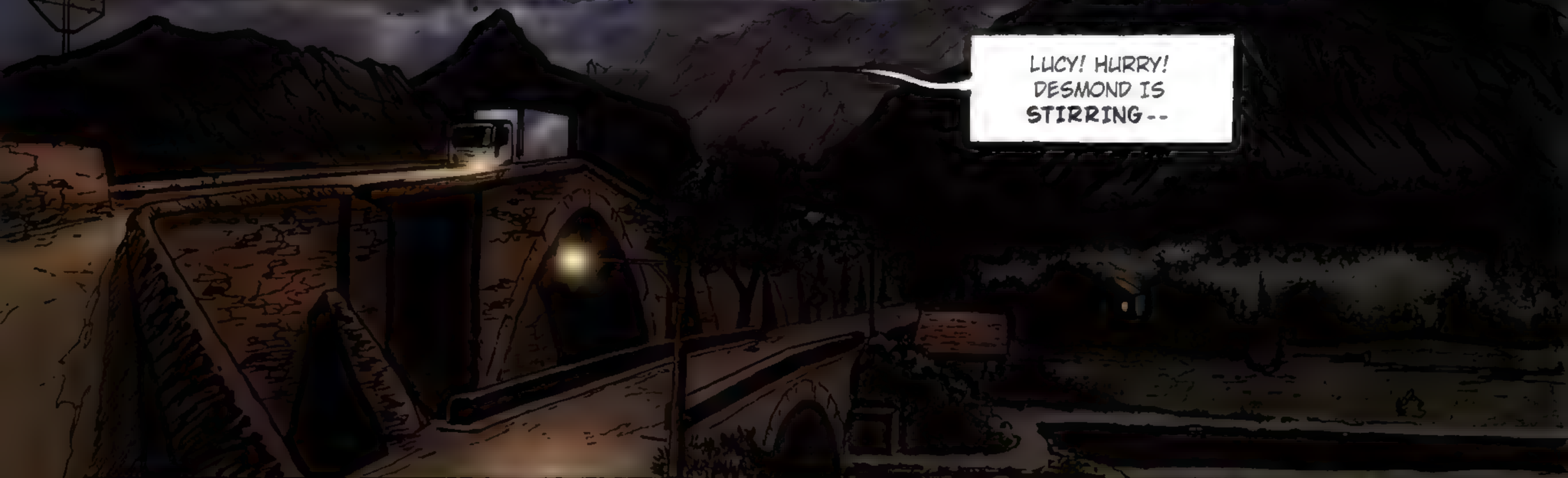


DID YOU UNDERSTAND  
WHAT WEKE WAS  
TALKING ABOUT JUST  
THEN, ABOUT EAGLES  
AND VULTURES?

NO, AQUILUS. I...  
I AM SORRY...



I HAVEN'T THE  
SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT  
HE MEANT BY THAT.



LUCY! HURRY!  
DESMOND IS  
STIRRING--



IT MUST BE  
LUCIUS' DEATH...

I...

YES. JUST LIKE A  
SEVERE WOUND, A  
VIOLENT EMOTIONAL  
SHOCK CAN DISRUPT  
THE GENETIC  
INTERFACE--

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LUCY... DO YOU SPEAK LATIN?

YES. AS WELL AS GREEK, HEBREW, AND ANCIENT ARAMEAN--

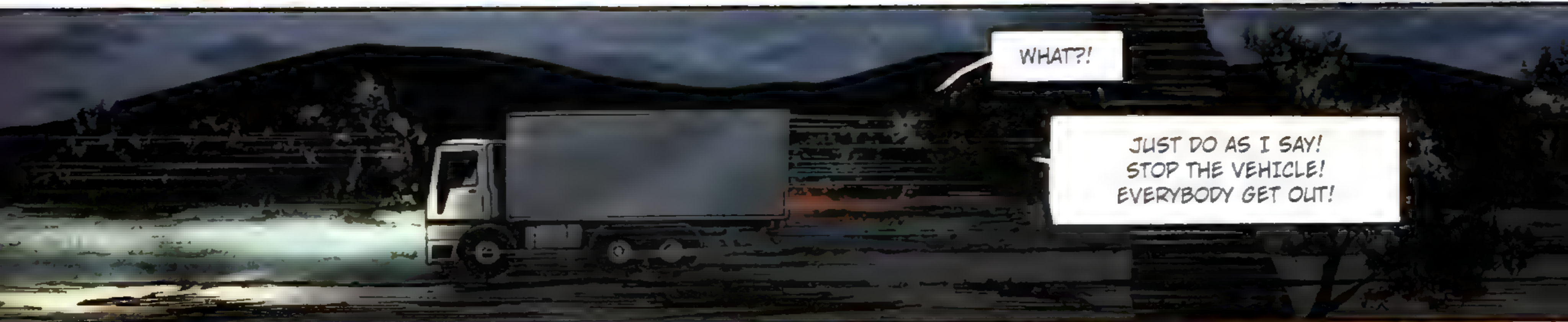
DO YOU KNOW THE WORD VULTUR. WHAT IT MEANS?

VULTURE. WHY DO YOU ASK?



THAT'S THE ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEM!

STOP THE TRUCK!



WHAT?!

JUST DO AS I SAY!  
STOP THE VEHICLE!  
EVERYBODY GET OUT!



WHAT'S GOING ON, DESMOND?

I HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS--THIS STORY I HAVE IN MY HEAD. I--I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD WHEN MY FATHER LED ME INTO THE DESERT TO SHOW ME A FALCON HUNTING...

"I REMEMBER BEING FASCINATED BY ITS BEHAVIOR."



"MY FATHER UTTERED ONLY A FEW WORDS AT THE TIME..."



"EAGLES DO NOT FEAR VULTURES... BUT THEY SHOULD LEARN TO BE WARY OF THEM."



"I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS THE BEAUTY OF THE PLACE WHERE WE FOUND OURSELVES OR BECAUSE I WAS MESMERIZED BY THIS MAJESTIC BIRD, BUT THESE WORDS HAVE REMAINED ENGRAVED IN MY MEMORY..."





BUT I WAS YOUNG,  
AND AT THE TIME THE  
MEANING OF HIS WORDS  
COMPLETELY ELUDED ME.



NOW I UNDERSTAND WHAT MY  
FATHER WAS TRYING TO TELL  
ME. IT WAS A WARNING.



EZIO, ALTAIR, AQUILLUS, ALL THESE  
NAMES MEAN 'EAGLE' IN DIFFERENT  
LANGUAGES. THE EAGLE HAS ALWAYS  
BEEN MY FAMILY'S EMBLEM.



AS FOR THE VULTURES,  
THEY'RE THE TRAITORS.  
IT'S THEM WE HAVE TO  
BE WARY OF, BECAUSE THEY  
BRING ONLY DEATH.

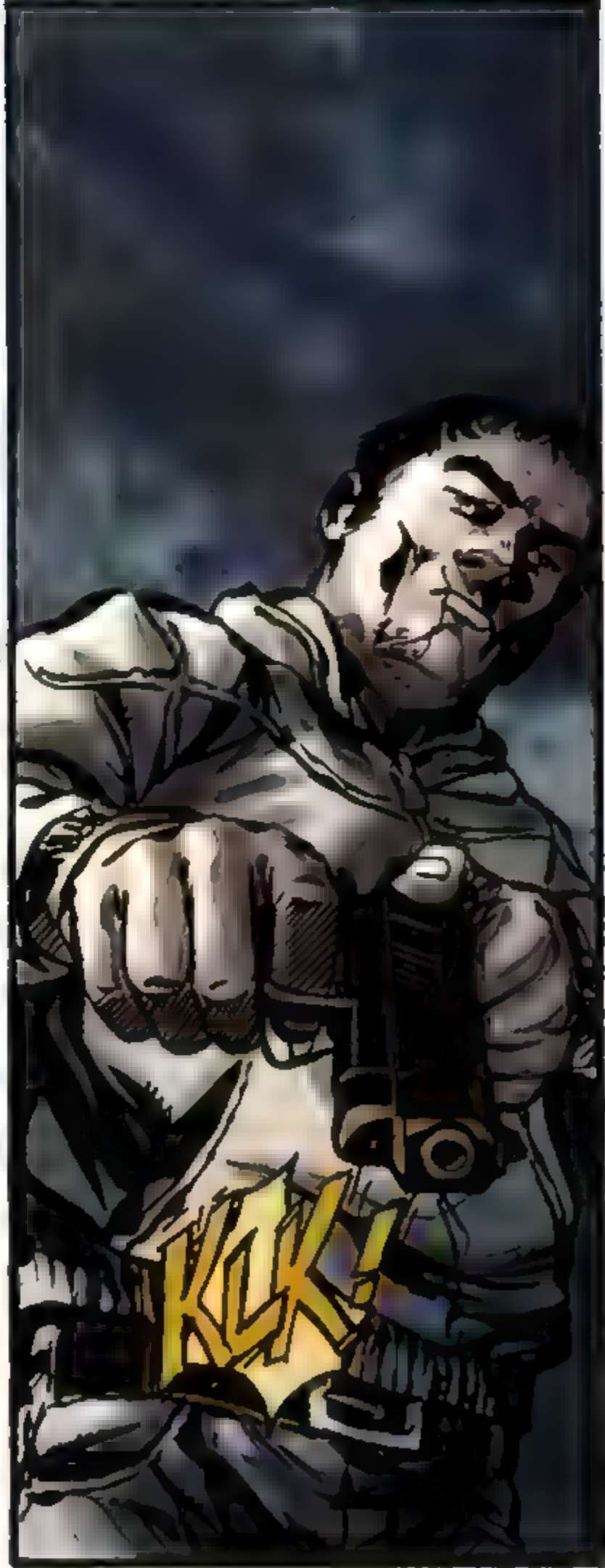


WHAT HAVE  
THESE  
MEMORIES GOT  
TO DO WITH US?

WHAT'S YOUR POINT,  
DESMOND?!

I'M GETTING THERE,  
SHAUN! AND IT'S  
GOING TO SAVE US  
VALUABLE TIME.

COULD YOU HAND  
ME YOUR GUN?



WHAT EXACTLY DO  
YOU INTEND ON  
DOING WITH IT?

YOU'LL  
SEE...



THANKS.









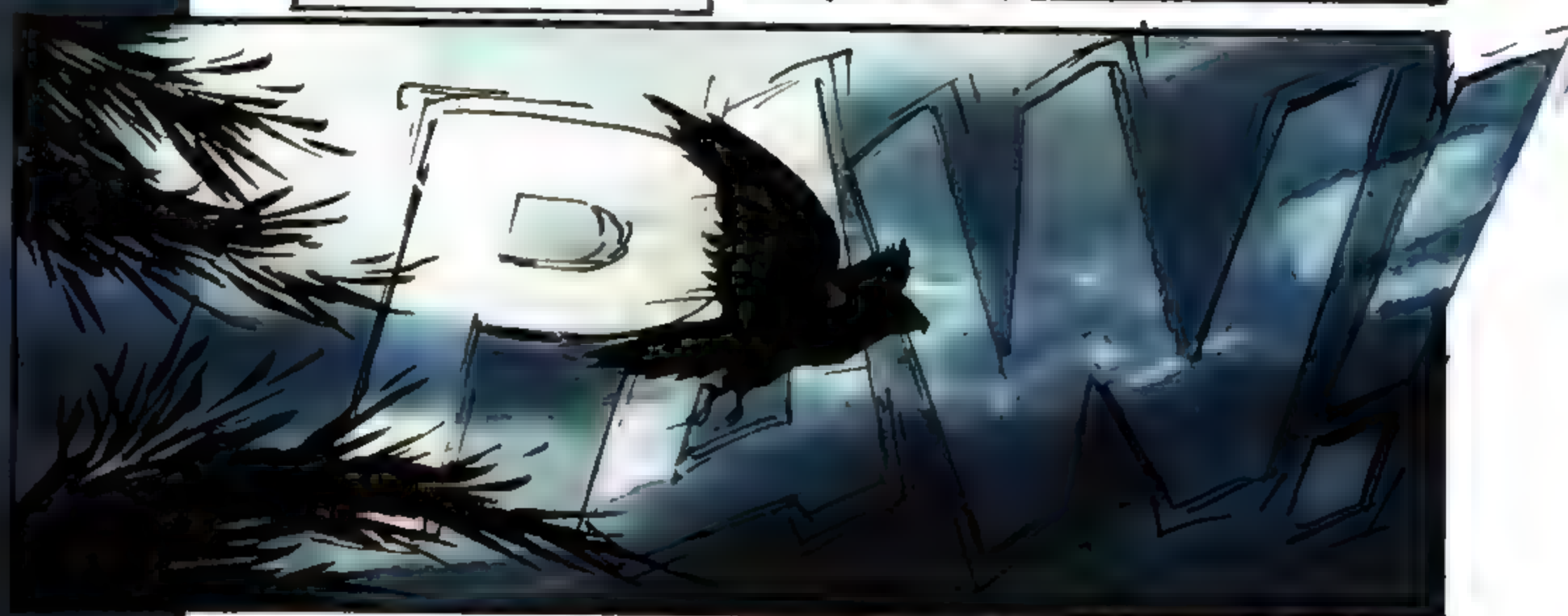
YOU NOT  
GONNA ANSWER  
IT, GEIER?



FINE. THEN,  
I GUESS...



...I'LL  
ANSWER  
FOR YOU.



'GEIER' IS  
A GERMAN  
WORD...

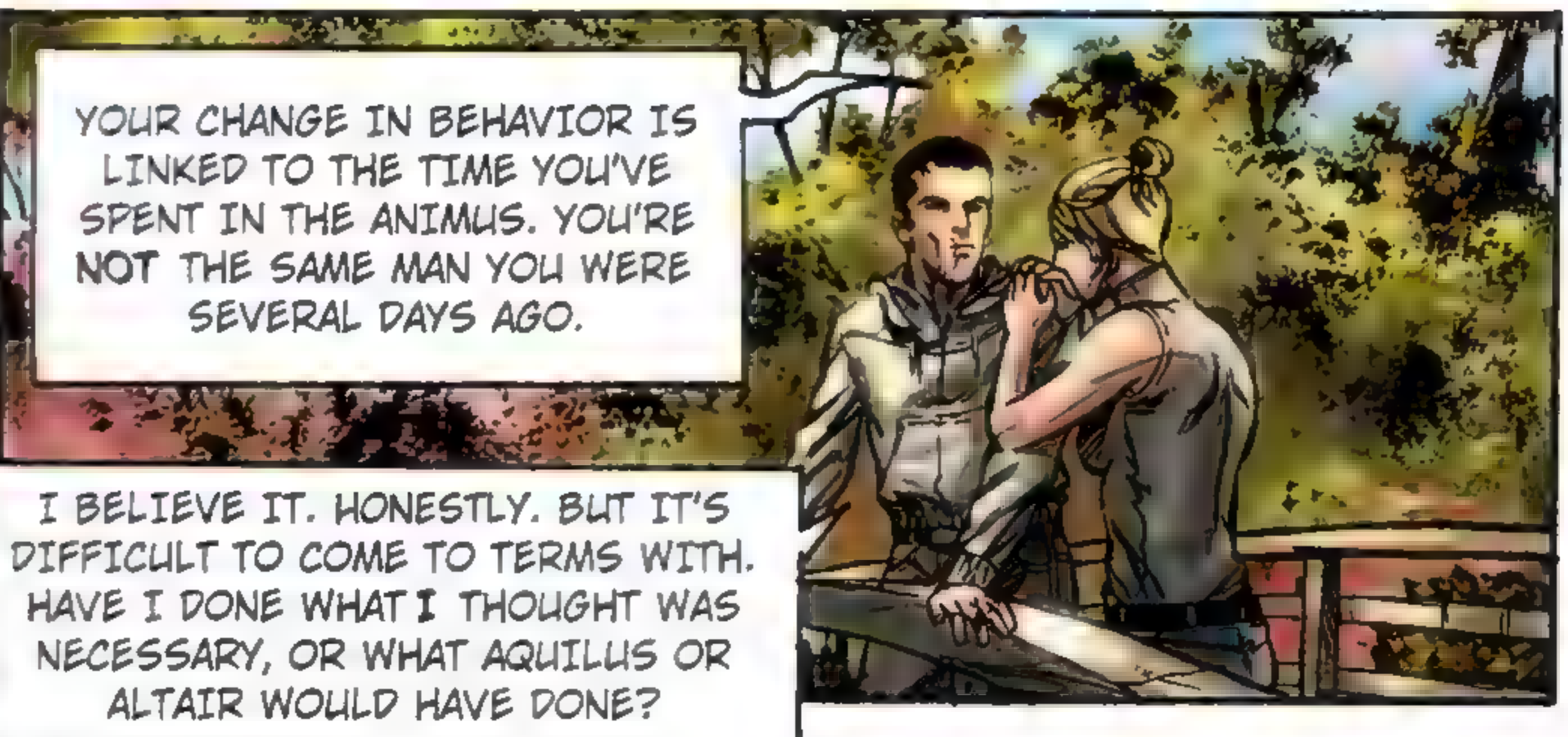
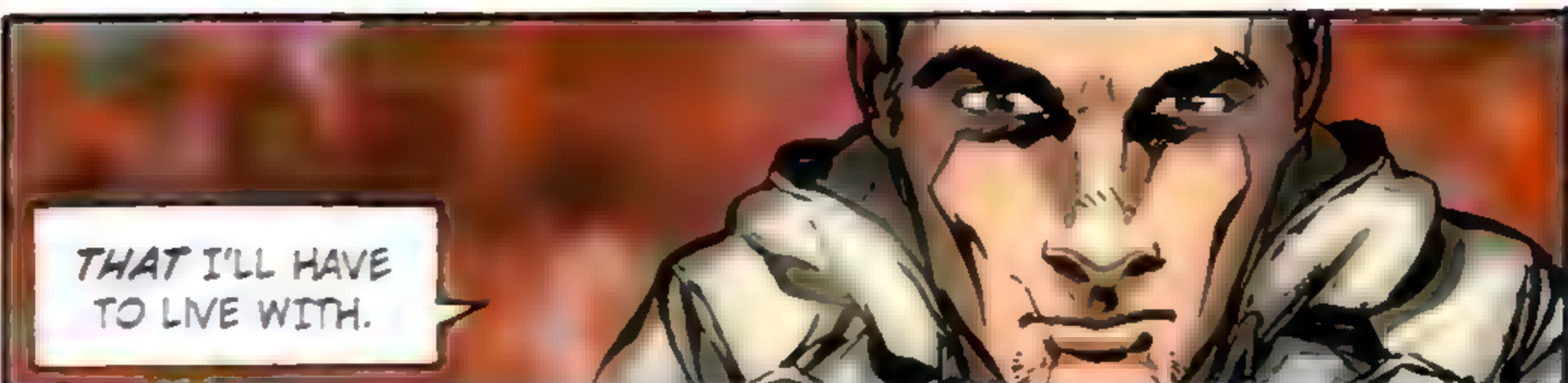
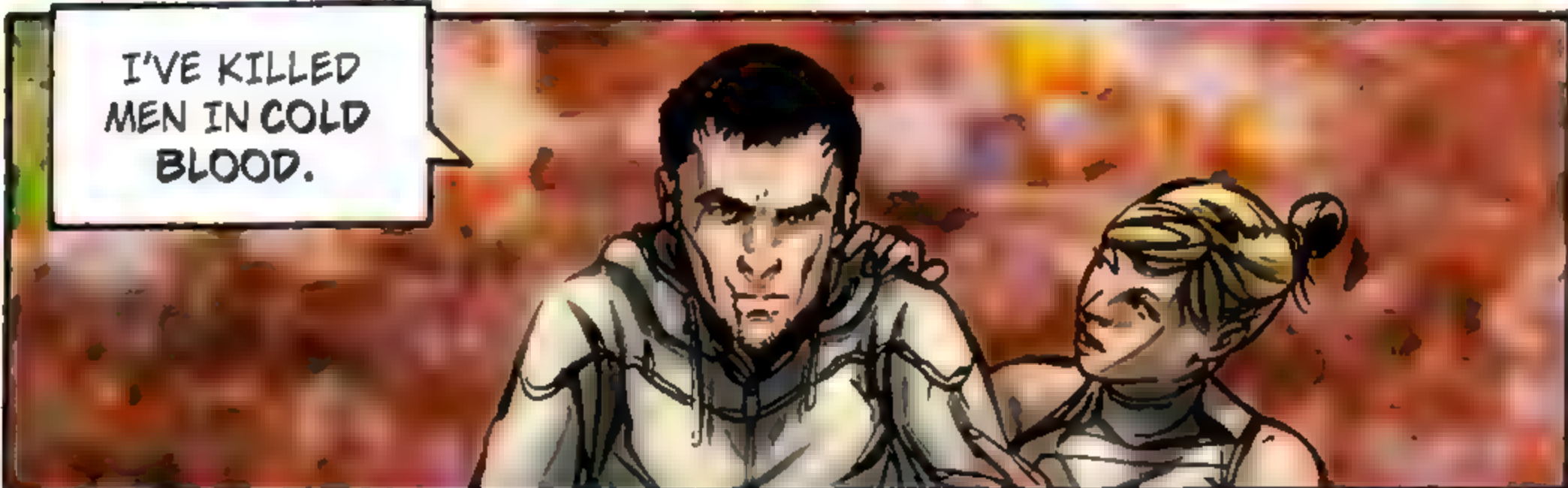


IT MEANS...

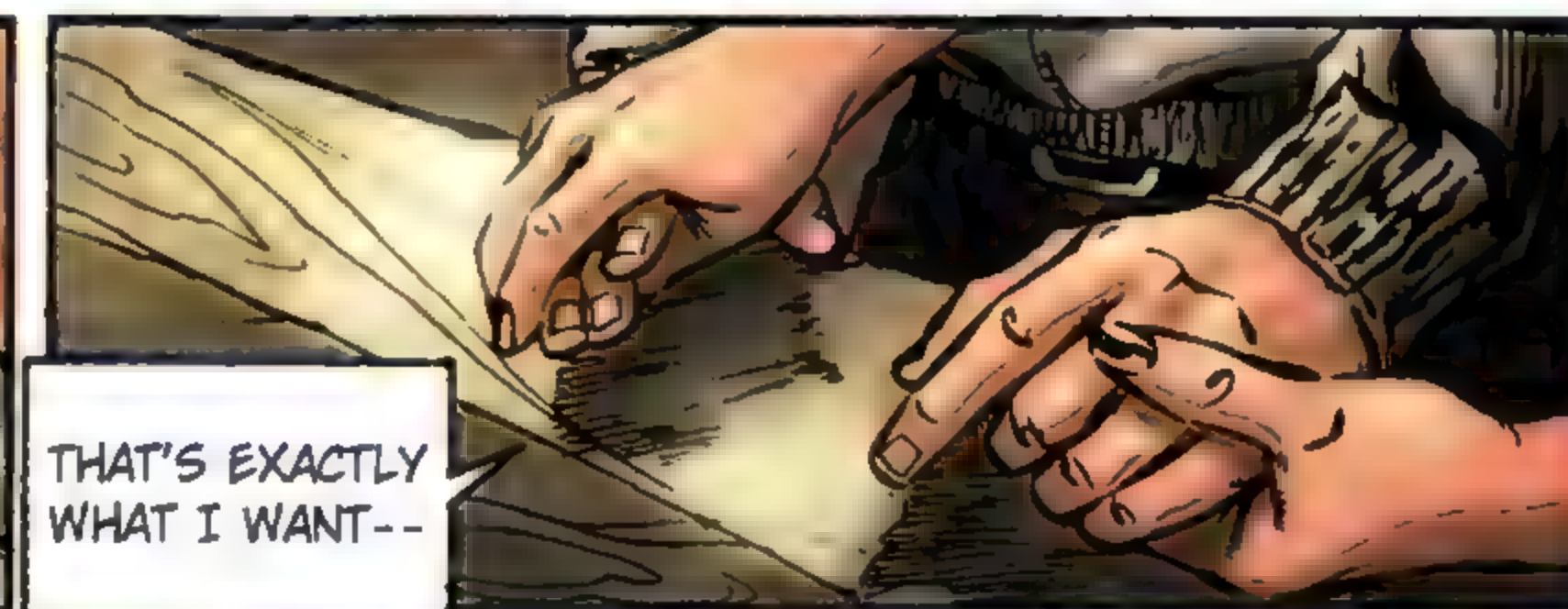


VULTURE.











MONTERIGGIONI,  
TUSCANY. 3:30 AM.

I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE.  
I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.

THAT'S ENTIRELY  
POSSIBLE, DESMOND.  
IN ANOTHER LIFE.

WHAT HAVE  
WE COME  
HERE FOR?

WE'LL BE SAFE FROM  
THE TEMPLARS. WE CAN  
SET UP THE ANIMUS  
AND CONTINUE TO WORK  
WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE  
TO GET THROUGH  
TO THE CRYPT!

WE CAN'T EVEN  
FIND A DOOR!

THIS VILLA  
BELONGED  
TO EZIO...

HE WAS YOUR ANCESTOR,  
DESMOND. PERHAPS YOU  
CAN REMEMBER HOW  
TO ENTER THE CRYPT?

NO. I'M SORRY,  
I DON'T KNOW  
HOW.



"I GUESS IT'LL NEED  
ANOTHER TRIP IN THE  
ANIMUS TO UNCOVER THE  
VILLA'S SECRETS..."

















Desmond has joined the ranks of the Assassins!

Now at their side, Desmond is plunged headfirst on a quest for a mysterious artefact of formidable power!

But in order to find it, he must relive the past of his Roman ancestor, Aquilus.

Pursued by the Templars and confronted by betrayal in his own camp, Desmond will discover that throwing himself into the past will come at a price greater than he could have ever imagined...

*The characters from the hit videogame, **Assassin's Creed** (which has now sold more than 8 million copies) come to life under the penmanship of celebrated writer Corbeyran ("Le Chant des Styrges", "XIII Mystery") and artist Djillali Defali ("Uchronies") who take us on an exciting adventure which defies time and science as we know it—a completely new story which will shock and surprise new readers and videogame fans alike!*

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